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A RESIDENCE

IN

GREECE AND TURKEY;

WITH NOTES OF THE JOURNEY THROUGH

BULGARIA, SERVIA, HUNGARY,

AND

THE BALKAN.

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BY

FRANCIS HERVÉ, Esq.

ILLUSTRATED BY TINTED LITHOGRAPHIC ENGRAVINGS,

FROM DRAWINGS BY THE AUTHOR.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. II.

WHITTAKER & Co. AVE MARIA LANE.

1837.

914.95
Her/Reg
33375

reg
915.61

LONDON:
PRINTED BY GILBERT AND RIVINGTON,
ST. JOHN'S SQUARE.



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A

RESIDENCE

IN

GREECE AND TURKEY.

CHAPTER XIII.

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FEW places in Europe can display more brilliancy and vivacity than Smyrna during the carnival. The young ladies are, certainly, the most eternal

dancers that I ever encountered. It has sometimes occurred, that a breakfast and ball has been given on board a frigate; dancing, perhaps, beginning at eleven, and continuing till seven or eight at night. The same young ladies who have figured away on the deck for eight or nine hours, after having made some different arrangement in their dress, proceed to the Casin, arrive there about ten at night, and dance till nine the next morning. Certainly, to see them then creeping to their homes, one would say it had almost been the dance of death with them, as they look half dead as they crawl along the streets. But their fancy balls are extremely amusing: the immense variety of costumes has the most dazzling effect. They live in a sort of centre of all the fanciful styles of dressing that the world can furnish: the Turkish, Armenian, Persian, and Egyptian natives are in constant communication with them; as also those of the Greek islands, which alone present a sufficiently extensive choice to equip a masquerade. Even the streets have a most gay appearance; parties patrolling them in all directions, decked out in all the fantastic forms which fancy can dictate. At these times, groups of your

acquaintances call upon you, so disguised that it is impossible to know them, except by their voice, whilst some have the art of feigning those of their friends.

I have been much amused, whilst passing an evening quietly with some family, when suddenly a party has walked in, appearing in characters and costumes so different from their own, that they have baffled every attempt at recognizing them: some have been discovered, others guessed at, a a few of whom no one could form the remotest idea who they were. They make their visit very short, and then proceed to another house, generally leaving a subject of conversation for the whole evening at every family they visit. This game is carried on during the whole night; but such are the fatigues of the carnival, that it requires a long time for the ladies to recover the bloom they lost during that dissipated period. Fortunately for them, soon after follows the season when they quit for the country.

They have a sort of apology for a theatre, at which pieces are performed in Italian; but the actors, the scenery, the house, and the audience, have all a miserable effect together.

I was very comfortably situated in the quarters which I had whilst at Smyrna; lodging and boarding at the house of a M. Ducie, a gentleman who had formerly been a merchant at Malta, but, probably from the over liberality of his character, had been unfortunate. He can only accommodate three persons; but if he has a vacancy, a traveller might consider himself fortunate in being the occupier. At the time I was there, I had for fellow boarders a Swiss and a Prussian merchant; both men whose society was calculated to render a residence with them extremely agreeable.

The streets of Smyrna are not lighted, and at night you are expected to carry a lantern: those who have a male servant employ him to perform that office; if not, you must do it yourself, or run the risk of being taken up by the guard, and confined all night in the guard-house. I remember a Scotch gentleman, who was at one of the balls of the Casin, and had occasion to step out for a few minutes, and did not think it worth while, for so short a distance, to take a lantern; and, as he was returning to the ball-room, he was arrested by the guard, and carried to their quarters, where he was compelled to pass the remainder of the

night, very different from the gay and convivial manner in which he had intended to have spent it. The next morning he obtained an interpreter, and, through his means, was liberated.

This is not the only danger you have to encounter from being without a lantern. When the pavement is bad, or under repair, you have a very good chance of breaking your legs, or getting one of them into a hole; as I knew a gentleman who was unfortunate enough to do so, and by which he was thrown down and most seriously hurt. There are wells, also, which are left uncovered; and, although so many have fallen sacrifices to this neglectful practice, such is the total carelessness in regard to human life, no precautions are taken to prevent the recurrence of such accidents.

The police of Smyrna has a most formidable appearance. Hadji Bey is at the head of the police guard, which seem to be going their rounds all day and all night: he is a short man, but immensely fat, and has rather an important aspect, being on horseback, and all his men on foot; and they are some of the most ferocious and wildest set of looking men of any I have seen in my rambles through the East; a completer picture

of a gang of banditti cannot well be imagined. I used always to follow them when I had the time, to sketch their singular costumes.

This Hadji Bey has a great discretionary power; orders the bastinado, imprisons, and even, in some instances, has inflicted death. Assassinations, of different varieties, very often take place, without the perpetrators ever being brought to justice. A Greek, one night, came running by my windows, pursued by four Sclavonians; one of whom approached him sufficiently close to strike him down with the tiller of a helm, and, repeating the blow upon the head of the Greek, he fled with his companions, leaving his victim motionless, and, before any assistance could arrive, the man was dead. But, on inquiry, it appeared that the murdered had desperately wounded a Sclavonian with a knife, and four of his countrymen, determined on revenge, pursued the Greek, and at length felled him to rise no more. The circumstances being explained, no farther stir was made about it. The Turks, no doubt, considered his punishment just, and they are fond of summary justice.

A French gentleman, whom I knew, was pass-

ing, about midnight, near a spot of indifferent reputation, when some one, from a window, called out, in English, "Murder! Help! for the love of God!" and at the same instant the implorer fell at the feet of the implored, who immediately endeavoured to assist the wounded man, who proved to be an English sailor that had been thrown from a window, and had his thigh broken in the fall. The French gentleman found the unfortunate man could not rise, fetched some English seamen, and had him conveyed to the English consul's, where he died in a few days.

Some search was made after the man (who proved to be a Greek) that threw the poor fellow from the window; but it was evidently at a house of the worst description; and when inquiry was made, it was found to be quite empty. But this was a proof of the great strength of a Greek, when he chooses to put it out: by the wounded sailor's account, it was but one man that threw him; and notwithstanding he was a very powerful fellow, when grappling with the Greek, he felt in the grasp of a giant, although a shorter man than himself.

There are very few positions in which a European would receive any resistance from either Turk,

Armenian, Jew, or Greek, as the latter are subject to the scourge of the laws of the country they live in, whilst the others are protected by their consuls, and, if guilty of any great misdemeanor, sent back to be judged by the tribunals of their own country. If their offence has amounted to crime, in some cases, they have been conveyed home in irons; whereas those who are not under the protection of any consul, are liable to receive stripes for any alleged misdemeanor. If any quarrel take place between a Frank and a person of the country, wherein blows are exchanged, the former is referred to his consul, who, it is supposed, punishes him according to his deserts, and, in some instances, may perhaps reprimand him; but the latter is, at the moment, ordered corporal punishment.

From want of sufficient vigilance on the part of the police, an offender often escapes chastisement, as Smyrna is a capital place for a scoundrel to hide in. A Greek, who had been guilty of several enormities, which had been lightly visited, at length stabbed an English subject; and the English consul came forward in a decided manner, and insisted on his apprehension. The culprit took

refuge in a house, and passed on to a terrace; but, in endeavouring to secrete himself, was seen by a young lady, named Purdie, and who, on finding his answers evasive, alarmed the family, and he was delivered into the custody of Hadji Bey. The consul, fearing the fellow should be turned loose on the public again, expressed his wish that he might be well secured, and prevented committing any further crime, when Hadji certainly took the best method of securing him; for, looking about, he espied a hook in the wall, and ordered his men to hang the Greek up to that, which was done accordingly; and there the body remained, swinging, *in terrorem*, for two days.

The Greeks have a droll trick they serve the English sailors. One will give Jack a push, who immediately turns round on the aggressor, who begins squaring and putting himself in a boxing attitude. Jack desires nothing better; pulls off his jacket, and is ready to begin; but off the challenger runs, and Jack after him, whilst another Greek, who is in connivance with the first, catches up Jack's jacket, and runs off with it in a contrary direction; and, by this manœuvre, Jack

infallibly loses his jacket, and whatever happens to be in the pockets.

But one of the most ingenious robberies was effected at Arquée's, the house at which I first put up on arriving at Smyrna. A person hired two rooms adjoining each other; and, as is mostly the case, a bureau, or secretaire, was in each apartment. When alone, he must have amused himself in cutting a hole through the wall which formed the partition between the two rooms; whilst, in order to conceal his work, at the hours he expected any one to come in, he placed one of the bureaus before it: they were also perforated; so that, when they were put against the hole in the wall, he could put his hand through from one into the other. His work being completed, he went to some Jews, stating that he wanted a certain sum delivered to him at his apartments, part in silver, and the remainder in gold; and that he would give them bills to the amount.

In this country, money transactions of this kind take place all day, and every day; and the Jews, not having the least suspicion but that all was right, repaired to the place, and at the hour ap-

pointed, with the sum required, which the stranger counted very deliberately; and, finding the different coin right, replaced them in their bags, and put them in his bureau, which he locked. He then said to the Jews, "I will now bring you the bills," they suffering him to quit the room without the slightest apprehension, whilst they were remaining in possession, and imagining the money, although locked up, still as safe as if it were in their own hands, even if any foul play should be intended. But the cunning sharper went into his other room, put his hand through the hole he had made in the wall, and communicating with that in the bureau, pulled the bags through, and was off.

Meantime, the poor Israelites sat wondering the gentleman did not come back, and still thinking he was only gone into the next room. At last their patience became worn out, and one of them took courage and tapped at the door of the room which they imagined contained the object of their search; but finding no one answer, they asked the persons of the house if they could give them any intelligence of the missing personage, and were informed that he had been seen to leave the house a few hours before. They began to be

very uneasy at this intelligence, particularly when they found that neither the host nor any one else knew any thing about the absconded. And, at last, they agreed that one was to keep in the room where it was supposed the treasure remained, quite safely under lock and key, whilst the other Jew went for some legal officer who might have the power, if necessary, of breaking open the bureau, that the right owners might repossess themselves of their cash. This measure, after some deliberation, was resorted to; and when the opened bureau revealed the absence of the money, the poor Smoucheys started back with horror, uttering, at the same time, most tremendous exclamations, imagining that his Satanic Majesty alone could have played them such a trick; whilst the bystanders, conceiving that the Jews had got up this farce to impose on them for some bad purpose, were about to inflict a summary punishment upon them, notwithstanding all the most solemn asseverations that they could make;—when, suddenly, some one espied the hole, and the communication through the wall with the other bureau (which, as a measure of precaution, he had also locked), was soon discovered, and the unfortunate Jews were

acquitted of any improper intentions, and their tale was believed. The man who had duped them was sought, but was not discovered for three days afterwards; he having been obliged to conceal himself in Smyrna, as the wind had so changed as to prevent the departure of the vessel by which he intended to have escaped. The greater part of the property was restored; but I believe the delinquent was not severely punished.

A few weeks prior to my arrival at Smyrna, a most destructive fire had taken place. The property lost, and the number of houses burnt, was immense. The greater part of the loss fell upon the European merchants; but there were also some Turks who had their dwellings burnt to the ground. The difference displayed in bearing their misfortunes, between the Christian and Turk, was remarkable: the Europeans were weeping and bewailing their losses; one great stout Englishman was seen crying like a child that had been punished, whilst the Turk would shake his head in reproof at the murmuring Christian; telling him that it was wicked to deplore that which was the will of God, and all grief was a reproach to him, and appeared as a disapproval of his acts.

Wherever the residences of the Turks had been consumed, the unfortunate proprietor might be recognised groping over the ruins, and collecting the few bits of iron, or other substance, that the fury of the devouring element had spared; but not a complaint would be heard. Their patience is most extraordinary under misfortune: it is no matter how severe it may be; to any attempt at commiseration they have the same reply, "It is the will of God." They are a most extraordinary people: they are naturally indolent, and like to do every thing sitting, even in mending the pavement in the streets, they always sit to do it; and yet, when it is required of them, few people can be more active, or more enduring: they will bear the excesses of heat or cold with the same unruffled mien; they will perform journeys on horseback of amazing length, without resting, and over tremendous roads, and, if required, with surprising rapidity. Those persons that carry letters, despatches, or act as guides to travellers, are called Tartars, and are sometimes entrusted with immense sums of money; and there never was known an instance of their betraying their trust.

The streets of Smyrna are extremely narrow,

and sometimes so choked up by camels that it is almost impossible to get past them. It is a singular circumstance that the camel must always be preceded by something: an ass is always chosen; and this custom is so general, that the idea is prevalent in Turkey, that a camel will not proceed except it is following an ass. Hence, if you see a string of a dozen or fifteen camels, it will always be found that they are led by an ass. One of our admirals, having once an altercation of politeness with an Austrian admiral as to which should enter a room first, the Englishman, at last, said, "Now, I beg, Admiral, you will go first; I am like the camels,—I must be preceded." "Thank you," said the Austrian; "then I will be your ass;" and, bowing, passed on before the English admiral. The bystanders were much amused by the comic turn the Austrian had given the ceremonious delicacy displayed in each yielding precedence to the other.

Some of the streets in the Turkish quarter are so extremely narrow, that at the top, as the houses project, they almost meet. I am sure you might get out of one window, and get into another on the opposite side of the way. This quarter of Smyrna is a complete labyrinth, and if once you

lose your way in it, it may be many hours before you find your right course. I once had that misfortune. At last I wandered about quite hopelessly: I found no one who could understand me; night had come on; the dogs were springing at me from the doors. I had fallen several times, from the peculiar unevenness of the ground, being high next the houses, and sloping towards the middle which forms a gutter; and the darkness being total, on account of the houses meeting at their summits, every particle of light is shut out. At last I saw a light in the distance, which proceeded from a sort of cake-shop, and finding a group of persons round it, I hoped amongst them there might be one who could understand me, but in that hope I was disappointed; a Turk, however, more richly dressed than usual who was passing by, heard me endeavour to make myself understood in my broken Italian: he comprehended me, and sent a man with me to a given point, where he knew a Frank must always find himself at home; but even my guide fell down more than once when walking in the dark on that shelving ground. Oh, how glad was I once more to find myself on a spot that was familiar to me. I afterwards

found that even many who had been born in Smyrna, and had lived there all their lives, were in the habit of always taking a guide when proceeding to the Turkish quarter, on account of its extreme intricacy.

The head-dress of the Greek ladies in Smyrna, which is called the *tactico*, is extremely pretty, and indeed it has been adopted by most of the European ladies, who have been long settled at Smyrna: it consists of a round scarlet cap, which is held on the head in some degree by a long plaited tress of hair, which is passed twice round it, leaving the scarlet peeping between; the back of the cap is adorned by an eagle, a star, or some other ornament, which is embroidered upon it in gold; and drooping from the centre is a purple silk tassel; some have it of silver, which is expensive, and a few there are of gold, which of course costs an immense price. The short embroidered jacket, open at the bosom, and with tight sleeves, as those to which I have already alluded as worn by the fair Armenian, is also much used by Frank and Greek females: it is picturesque, and its novelty pleases the European eye.

There has been much said about the beauty of

the Smyrniot women: to me they have an unwashed appearance, or as if they washed themselves with coffee or saffron. They have seldom a nice clear looking complexion: for this reason they look better by candlelight; and as they have a showy manner of dressing, a stranger, at first entering a ball-room, is rather struck with the display of females. The dark eyes and hair have more effect on a *coup d'œil* than the softer features, usually the accompaniments of lighter tresses and fairer skins; but, though the former strike the most at first, it will generally be found that the latter are the most captivating; at least the remark will apply to the females of Smyrna. Their features are mostly too harsh to bear approach, although they have an animated appearance, and strongly characterised expression, which pleases at a short distance; but so many of them have complexions of a yellow greenish brown, and the cast of countenance so masculine, that I have often thought they would make far better men than women; and in many instances I cannot help thinking, that they would display more spirit than the male part of the population generally have, when put to the test. Be it known that I

allude to the Frank inhabitants; for as to those that are indigenous to the soil, they are brought up in such a state of servility, that it would be difficult to form an idea as to what natural courage they might have possessed, had they ever known a free will. They did once contrive to get up a duel at Smyrna; but the seconds were very humane persons, and whenever they saw any prospect that the combatants might hurt each other, they beat down their swords with sticks; and although the fight was long and obstinate, yet it was innocent.

An American having conceived himself insulted by a young Smyrniot, horsewhipped him in the presence of several of his acquaintances, who remarked to him that he must call the American out. "Oh, no," returned the other with an assumed air of indifference; "he did not hurt *me* much," but shrugging his shoulders at the same time, still writhing under the smart. During the time I was sojourning at Smyrna, a young man of their much boasted first class received a tremendous trouncing, and made not the slightest resistance, but went to the aggressor's consul, in hopes to have him punished, but was informed that, accord-

ing to the laws of their country, five and twenty francs was the penalty; but that there was another means to which his countrymen resorted in cases of that kind, and which he believed was the practice in all civilised countries; but this did not suit the assaulted, however it might the assaulter, who willingly paid the penalty required. In most places the receiver of personal chastisement, without resenting it in any shape whatever, is at least cooled upon in society; but this was not the case in Smyrna, the young man in question being received in the same manner as if nothing had happened, as they were accustomed to that kind of thing. Disputes, altercations, and assaults are generally referred to the respective consuls of the discordant parties.

Shortly after my arrival at Smyrna, Marshal Marmont, Duke of Ragusa, made his appearance, and I was invited to dine with him at the French consul's. I cannot give a better description of his person than by saying he is the exact type of the English fox-hunter. He had two gentlemen travelling with him; the one an Englishman, a fine young man, of most gentlemanly manners, and extremely well informed; the

other was an Italian nobleman, of most pleasing address. I fancy they accompanied the marshal, either as secretaries or aides-de-camps, or perhaps merely as companions. They informed me that Marmont was a man of the most indefatigable activity; that his inquiring spirit seemed never to rest as long as there was any thing to be seen; that, notwithstanding the intense heat of the climate, which was at its height, being in the month of August, he would remain on horseback eleven hours of the day, without appearing in the slightest degree fatigued. His manners were Frank and gentlemanly, totally devoid of hauteur, nor was there in his countenance and general bearing the slightest indication of his mind having been subdued by the succession of misfortunes which have marked his career.

His loss of the Battle of Salamanca was the first untoward event that checked the progress of the reputation he had hitherto sustained. He was severely wounded by one of the earliest shots which were fired, and compelled to quit the field, and was succeeded by the second in command, who shared the same fate, and, strange to say, the third was equally unfortunate; so that the French

army had four different commanders in the space of half an hour. Marmont's plan of the battle was totally abandoned, but that circumstance did not save him from bearing the blame which was attached to the defeat. It has always been stated that he had his arm shot off, but I can bear evidence to the contrary, as I saw him freely use them both.

He was next prominently before the public, in having been entrusted with the defence of Paris, in 1818. The treaty which he there made with the Allies has drawn upon him an immense weight of opprobrium in France; but whether he acted conscientiously or not, himself alone can know. Subsequent to this, all his enterprises and speculations, which were on a colossal scale, principally in the manufacture of sugar from beetroot, failed to a ruinous degree. Equally unhappy has he been in his domestic affairs; and, lastly, his being invested with the command of the troops in Paris during the three days, appeared permanently to seal that hatred towards him which had so long been rankling against him, in the hearts of the majority of the French: whilst his friends contend that he was but the unfortunate instrument, and did

but obey the orders of his master, to whom he had sworn allegiance.

He was received and fêted by all the authorities in Smyrna, who but followed the example of the ambassadors at Constantinople, at which place I some months after met the English gentleman who was travelling with the marshal, and had been accompanying him since I had met them at Smyrna, through Egypt and Syria, in which they had endured the greatest privations. A vessel which had been appointed to be in waiting for them at a certain point, had by some means been prevented arriving at its destination: they were many days' journey from any town or place, from whence they could procure any provisions, and they were reduced to living for some time on a very small portion of rice per day, the marshal taking precisely the same share as any other of his suite. In crossing the deserts they had suffered much in their eyes, and the Italian nobleman temporarily lost his sight, but ultimately recovered it, although it ever remained considerably injured.

It is curious to see a Turk at prayer: he stands quite still for a time, with his face always turned

to the East; he then performs his salaams, bowing down to the ground several times, but appears to do all in silence. During the Ramazan, when the fast is observed from sunrise to sunset, the mosques are illuminated at night; and as soon as the hour arrives when they are allowed to satisfy their hunger and thirst, they do so rather voraciously, to compensate for the forced abstinence of the preceding and the following days. But when the Bairam comes, then all is festivity and gaiety, and each puts on his holiday apparel; and most cheerful is the appearance of the bright groups so richly attired. Perhaps some would say they dress their children rather tawdrily, but I know not anything which has a more picturesque effect than a boat filled with a Turkish family, all dressed in their costumes which they sport on feast days.

Smyrna is well known as a city which has long carried on a most extensive commerce: latterly, however, it is admitted that it has rather decreased than otherwise; and whilst the people of the country increase in intelligence, so they are more enabled to act directly with the European manufacturers and merchants: hence, they have not

so much need of the French, English, Dutch, or Italian mercantile establishments settled at Smyrna, and who formerly acted as a medium between the merchants of Europe and those of Turkey. The Greeks and Armenians have now themselves established concerns at London, Paris, Marseilles, Leghorn, Trieste, and many other parts of Europe. Therefore, those English and French houses at Smyrna, which once did so great a stroke of business, now find their operations considerably diminished.

At the period that I was sojourning there, the firm of Issaverdens was considered to carry their commercial transactions to the greatest extent, or in mercantile language, as doing the most business. The heads of this establishment are Armenians, although at present they consider themselves as Franks; but the brothers having since separated, the concern being divided into two different firms, what they may carry on under distinct houses cannot be calculated collectively; therefore, there may be other concerns having as much trade, or more than either of the brothers, taken separately, although not equal to them when united.

The principal exports from Smyrna are wool,

oil, opium, cotton, madder-roots, vallonea, yellow berries, silk, carpets, fruit, (that is, figs and raisins), sponges, &c. I verily believe, if persons could see the operation of arranging the figs, they never would eat another. There are the filthiest set of old women that can be raked together, who are ranged in the merchants' long yards for the purpose of squeezing them, and packing them in the little round boxes in which they are sent to Europe. Most of these women have young children, as dirty as they can be; and one moment they are washing their babies, &c., and then again pawing the figs, which alone make their hands in such a filthy mess, that the sight is so disgusting, that whilst this work was going forward, when I had occasion to pass the merchants' yards, I used to run through as fast as I could tear, without looking either right or left. The sight is not more gratifying of the preparation of the raisins: men are employed, after they have been dried to a certain degree, to tread them down, with their feet and legs bare, until they become in such a nasty condition, from the oozing out of the yellow brown juices from the fruit, which has always a considerable portion of dirt

with it, that I always turned away from them with complete nausea.

Smyrna is a city most highly interesting to artists; the least so is the Frank quarter, as having an air rather more European: although the houses are of a different fashion, and with a few exceptions, very ugly, yet taken together as streets, often picturesque. The line is more broken and irregular than in more civilised places, consequently, better suiting the pencil; but the other quarters of Smyrna are constantly presenting subjects just calculated for sketching.

The bazaars are extremely attractive to the stranger's eye: the rich show of goods profusely displayed; the succession of shops, all united so as to have the appearance of one immense magazine; the picturesque costume of those who attend with their various articles for sale; the wild and singular dress of the merchants who come from the interior of Asia; whilst the sombre kind of light, which gives a sort of mystical gloom over the generality of the bazaars; at once, and at every step, presents you with a picture ready composed for your pencil, to which the talents of Wilkie might be applied with most splendid effect.

Many of the little streets in the outskirts of Smyrna are particularly adapted for sketching. They are very fond of creeping the vine about their houses; and sometimes they cross the street from the roof of one house to that of the one opposite, trained for that purpose on frame-work, whilst here and there a stray bough gracefully droops, giving a most picturesque appearance to their bye-roads and lanes. Their coffee-houses have always an agreeable appearance, from their fondness for these climbing sort of plants.

Except in the depth of winter, the Turk likes to smoke or take his coffee in the open air, under some trellissed sort of bower or alcove: in fact, it appeared to me that in this part of the country, they pass more of their time outside their houses than inside. The females sit and work before their doors, as the interior of their residences are generally dark. In the true old style of Turkish houses, they have a double rank of windows, the one row being over the other; where that is the case, the rooms are sufficiently light. The motive for having two sets of windows is, that the lower being always obscured by the latticed shutters, through which the women can peep without being

veiled, would render their apartments too dark, if it were not for the range of windows above; but in their present mode of building, it appears to be merely a sort of fanlight above each window that is closed.

It seems extraordinary, that, although Constantinople and Smyrna are in Turkey, yet I could seldom find in those places such curious specimens of the old Turkish style, as at Napoli and Athens, which is to be explained from the immensely destructive fires in the former towns, having destroyed all the ancient houses, and the greater number of those one finds at present are built within the last fifty years; but in Greece this is not the case, there being many which date far above a century.

Some of the outskirts of Smyrna are extremely rural, with a stream running before the houses, foot wooden bridges, communicating from one side of the way to the other, and gardens shelving down to the water's edge. They have one public walk in the Frank quarter, which is called the Marino, which is extremely pleasant: the only objection is, that its length is so insufficient. The houses which form one side of it are very hand-

some; the other is open to the sea, and commands a most splendid view of the bay. How often have I at night, from this walk, watched the Greek and Turkish fishermen. They have a singular method of endeavouring to attract the fish: after having cast their nets, perhaps occupying thirty yards in length, they burn on their boat some sort of substance which gives a great light, making darkness visible in a most picturesque manner, as it sheds its red glare upon their grotesque figures, giving them a sort of fiendlike appearance; they next strike the boat with an immense thick stick, stamping with their feet at the same time; in fact, making as much noise as their powers will admit. Their object in creating so blazing a light, is to draw the fish to the surface of the water. This is a frequent practice in many parts of the world, particularly where they catch salmon by spearing them. The noise they make is to frighten the fish, and drive them into their nets; but with all their manœuvres, they appeared to me to have very little success, as I never saw them, when they drew up their nets, obtain any fish much bigger than a sprat, and of them only two or three; yet, with true Eastern patience, they would cast their

nets again, without one expression of impatience ever escaping them, although the trial had been repeated several times in succession alike unprofitably.

The greater number of the houses of the Franks are so arranged, that from their terraces, or little observatories on their roofs, called kiosks, they can have a very extensive look-out upon the sea, which I enjoyed from the windows of my sitting-room, and once was witness to a storm, which presented the most magnificent spectacle I ever beheld. Although my apartment was up stairs, perhaps nearly thirty feet from the ground, one wave struck my windows. Several of the streets of Smyrna were impassable, in consequence of the sea which came running into them, and for a time threatened most destructive effects. The noise was such, created by the roaring of the waves, that the voices of the sailors could not be heard, as they were crying out to each other, to guard against their coming in contact: yet, notwithstanding all precautions, some came together with a tremendous crash. Loss of lives were sustained, infinite damage amongst the shipping, and much injury was done to many houses and other premises.

But it was beautiful to see, although often all was obscured by the mist produced by the foam which arose from the terrific billows as they broke against each other, the ships, the port, the houses, or, in fact, any object that obstructed their impetuous force; but when the evaporating spray admitted a transient sight, it presented the sublimest dangers: a vessel, buoyant on the summit of a wave, then hurled into the gulph below, as the poor seamen were seen clinging to aught which would protect them from being cast into the angry element; whilst the noise of some splintering crash of breaking spars and timbers was sometimes heard, above that more round and majestic tone of rolling billows and bursting winds.

Few persons, as may be imagined, besides myself, had any enjoyment in beholding the above scene. Many of the inhabitants having some stake, either on board the shipping, or in houses or wharfs, or various premises, reaching to the sea, were trembling for their property; and of those who had not any fear of the kind, few there were that could comprehend that any thing grand or romantic could be displayed in so dreadful a storm. As a proof of this, a merchant observed

to me, "What a frightful storm we had yesterday;" "Yes," I replied, "but how beautiful was the sight." "Nay," returned he, "I cannot say I found it so, and it appears to me a contradiction on your part: you admit it was frightful, yet you say it was beautiful; now how is it possible that the same thing can be frightful and beautiful at the same time?" I endeavoured to explain this enigma by observing, that I took the word frightful in the acceptation of frightening, or alarming. "Even so," continued he, "it is impossible one could think any thing very pretty that frightens one. If a man was going to run me through with a sword, I certainly should not at that moment think of admiring his beauty, if he were ever so handsome; but, on the contrary, should think him a devilish ugly customer." Unwilling to be quite argued down, I reminded him that, although I assented to the word frightful, in the sense of frightening, I only admitted it as regarding himself, I not having been alarmed in the least degree. "Ah, then," said he, "that was because you did not know your danger; for if you did you could not have thought it beautiful;" then wishing me good morning, assured me, that he

could never be convinced that any thing could be frightful and beautiful too. In fact, it would be impossible to make such a being understand that the terrific is an auxiliary to the sublime; and this man may be taken as a sort of type of the majority of Smyrna merchants, whose brains are so stuffed up with cotton, wool, figs, &c., that they have not room for an idea that is not connected with business.

There appears a something in the very air of the place that inoculates a person with this trading kind of feeling, to the exclusion of every other, as not only those who have been born at Smyrna, but even Europeans, who have resided there some years, assume the same feelings, for even their greatest amusement, card-playing, has become a trade; and if you see two Smyrniots meet together in the streets, you are sure, after the first salutation, what will be the question —"Comment va le commerce?" (or, How goes business?)

I have no doubt but that the inhabitants of Smyrna will say that I have dealt very unjustly towards them, particularly the ladies; but I wish it to be understood, that my remarks are to be

taken generally. I am aware that there are many exceptions, of families that are both moral and intellectual; but they are by far the smaller proportion, particularly of the latter. In all general classifications a majority must be understood, and in the present case I should say the minority, which presents the exceptions, was very small, as compared with the whole of the European, or rather educated population, as I must include the Greek and many of the Armenian families in the remarks I have made. But one redeeming quality I will allow them, and that is hospitality: in that respect, few such large cities, I think, can compare with them.

Most strangers who have visited Smyrna can testify to that effect; particularly officers, naval or military, of whom they are remarkably fond. I verily believe, if an uniform was hung upon a jackass, and a pair of epaulettes clapt upon the shoulders, that if he did but bray at the windows, he would get asked to walk in, and invited to dinner, if there were any young ladies in the house.

One circumstance which contributes to deter young men from marrying in Smyrna is, that when a girl is married she expects to have one at least,

perhaps more, of her sisters to live with her; so that poor Benedict must count upon having as good as two wives to support; and if the family should become reduced or distressed, he is expected to take charge of them; and as the families are very large, a man entails upon himself no trifle. I knew a case in point, which proves to what extent this is anticipated. A European family, with whom I was acquainted in Turkey, consisted of the parents, two sons, and seven daughters. The father's concern, like many others, had so diminished, that it was barely sufficient to maintain so expensive a family. The eldest son had a little place, about enough to support him; the other son, too young to do any thing; and the daughters brought up to nothing but following their pleasures, which consisted chiefly in receiving company, dancing, and visiting. Many who frequented their parties, which took place every evening, were supposed, and hoped, to be admirers; and so they were, and with all possible respect, but without any idea of marriage. Yet there was one who became enamoured of the second daughter, who was certainly a very fine girl: the lover had the greatest inclination to marry her, but considered the position too appal-

ling. He was a merchant of a European family, his affairs thriving; but what he feared was, that should any thing occur to deprive so numerous a family of their father, as there were none of the children who could carry on business, whoever married one of the daughters would have the maintenance of the whole of them on his charge; observing, that if one were already married, the position would be less imposing, as then the burthen would be halved; but as it was, none would dare be the first to form an alliance where the circumstances were so menacing.

Having resided in Smyrna between seven and eight months, I considered it as well to quit before I became impregnated with the common-place, plodding, pound, shilling, and pence tone of ideas, (or, rather, I should say, paras, piastres, bicheliks, and dollars, being the current coin of the country) which so encumber the Smyrniot heads, to the exclusion of every other; and I have no doubt that they would imagine that I might have derived great advantage, could I but have remained long enough to have acquired some of their commercial acumen,—a quality in which I certainly ever have been particularly deficient.

The coin which is generally required in payment, in mercantile transactions, when persons are inclined to be fastidious, is the bicheliks, being of the value of five piastres, or equal to a shilling sterling; they are rather larger than half-a-crown, are of copper, and washed over with silver. These coins have rendered a greater profit to our merchants in Turkey than, perhaps, any other article in which they have traded. They have sent over one, as a pattern, to Birmingham, and have had them imitated so closely, that it is impossible to discover the slightest difference from those fabricated at Constantinople. It is easy to perceive how very lucrative these transactions must have been to those who engaged in them; as the charge at Birmingham could not exceed twopence each, and they are worth a shilling in Turkey. It must be admitted that there are very few descriptions of merchandize that ever pay in a like proportion, An Englishman, who has made a larger fortune in the East than any of his countrymen, it is well known, has amassed his wealth by the manufacture of bicheliks in England. The means of introducing them into Turkey is not difficult; the vigilance of the custom-house officers is so easily

evaded, either by bribery or a variety of other manœuvres. I have heard many merchants defend this sort of traffic, by observing that it is rendering Turkey a service, as there absolutely are not enough bicheliks in the country to carry on commercial affairs, as that coin is often insisted upon, and some there are who will not receive any other money in payment. I remember a case in point: Mr. D——, my landlord at Smyrna, conducting a ship insurance office, had to pay five thousand dollars, in consequence of the loss of a vessel, to a person who had insured some goods in her to that amount. Mr. D—— presented the sum in dollars; but the insurer demanded bicheliks. Mr. D—— tried in vain to procure them; and ultimately dollars were accepted. Counterfeiting the coin of Turkey, according to Smyrna logic, therefore becomes a virtue.

Provisions are mostly very cheap, especially as regards the essentials, bread and meat; the latter being about threepence a pound, the former not half that price; game, poultry, eggs, vegetables, fruit, &c., cheap in proportion; but butter they have mostly from Holland and Ireland, consequently it is dearer; that which is made at Smyrna

being full of cow hairs. The wines of the country are considered to be very good as table wines. Of foreign wines, Marsalla is much drunk; but all the European wines are reasonable; being a sea-port, having a constant communication with all parts of the world, and where the duties are very light. I paid thirty dollars a month where I boarded; having a handsome sitting-room and bed-room, and living very comfortably. Hospitality can be carried on in this country at a cheap rate, as persons who have been brought up in the place know how to go to market with great advantage.

It is much to the credit of the Smyrniots, that they display much sympathy towards their relations, and those families who are plunged into distress by bankruptcies or other misfortunes, and even those compelled to follow some humble calling, do not lose their places in society; and as most of the European families are related or connected by marriage, they appear to form, as it were, one large family; and poverty seldom shuts out one of its members from their circles, unless some heinous misconduct has stamped the individual's career. They are not very fastidious as to

any venial errors, having a thorough consciousness that human nature is frail, and that we are all more or less prone to sin.

Smyrna, with all its faults, possesses too many objects of interest for any one to leave it without some regret, after a residence of months. The walks around it are many of them very interesting. An old castle crowns an immense hill which frowns over Smyrna; it was built either by the Genoese or Venetians, at the time they possessed the country, for the purpose of awing the inhabitants into good behaviour, when they might be disposed to revolt. From this spot there is a most splendid and extensive view; and that which added to the wildness of the scene, whilst I was contemplating the mouldering tower, was the sudden springing up of four large vultures, who rose from just near us, and soaring into the air, seemed to hover over us for some minutes, and did not appear to display so much fear as I should have expected, having suffered us to approach them nearer than I could have imagined, before they took to flight.

Occasionally wild beasts will come within a few miles of Smyrna. An immense leopard was killed amongst the hills, within sight of Smyrna,

a few days before I arrived. The skin was most beautifully marked; the animal measured eleven feet from the tip of the nose to the end of the tail; its chest was enormous; but its legs were short, as it scarcely stood three feet high. It was shot by a Greek, who had been watching for it several nights. A female leopard was with it, and howled most piteously when the male was wounded; but quietly went away when the Greek made his appearance, and poured a second shot into the male.

It has been stated that lions and tigers have made their appearance within a day's walk of Smyrna; but I never could meet with any one that ever saw any. The jackalls I have frequently heard towards the close of the day. There is an immense quantity of wild fowl, of innumerable varieties, around Smyrna; and pelicans are frequently found. One spot there was which I found peculiarly interesting; it was termed the Caravan Bridge, and over it were constantly passing strin s of camels, with passengers from the interior, in all kinds of grotesque costumes, forming the most picturesque groups. The scene around where this bridge was situated also had its beauties: imme-

diately on having crossed it from Smyrna, one has, on either side, an extensive cemetery; masses of tall, dark, melancholy cypresses form the deep shade over the white tombstones. The Turks are very fond of having the representation of their turbans cut out of the stone from which their tombstones are formed, and the janissaries had them painted red and white, so that, at a distance, sometimes they have had the appearance of human beings.

The term of Janissary is now no longer used, since the destruction of that force; but all the consuls have each their attendants in full Turkish costume, who are still called Janissary by the Europeans. These men have a very fierce and important appearance. When the consul, or his lady, go to church, or to an assembly, or, in fact, to any public place, two of these imposing looking personages precede them, serving, as it were, as protectors, or rather pioneers,—once highly necessary, when the Franks were despised and hated by the Turks; but now it is but a form, which has a very pompous effect; these men carrying sticks tipped with iron, with which they ever and anon strike the pavement, which is tantamount to saying, "Get out of the way!"

I would not quit Smyrna without paying a visit to so interesting a character as M. Fauvel, for a long period the French consul at Athens, where he had devoted a great portion of his life in researches for every means that could throw any light upon the ancient state of that city. I found him surrounded by so many objects of interest, that it appeared to me as if he were in the middle of a museum. But his model of ancient Athens afforded me the highest gratification, because I felt confident that it was as accurate a representation of that capital, in the days of its glory, as it was possible at this remote period to produce. I knew that it was the subject to which M. Fauvel had bent his whole mind, and that his judgment in every matter concerning antiquity, and his profound knowledge of classic history, was unquestionable. He was eighty-four years of age when I called on him, living on a small pension allowed him by the French government; and he expressed himself rather indignant, that his stipend should be so low, hardly sufficient indeed to procure him all the comforts his age required; and that after having benefited the world by the result of the most intense labour and study on a subject that

must interest every one who has any veneration for antiquity, or who has any love for the history of those ages, when the genius for the grand and sublime surpassed all which has since existed, as testified by the ruined remains of their architecture and their sculpture.

I was much pleased with M. Fauvel's sketches, which were executed with a breadth and boldness, which would have led one to suppose they had been the work of some young and aspiring artist, instead of the production of an aged, trembling hand. He had models also of many other edifices of various parts of Greece, all his own performance; and numberless relics and specimens of the ingenuity and industry of the ancient Greeks, to each of which appertained an interesting little history, all illustrating, in some degree, the manners and customs of our fellow creatures, existing some thousand years since. I took leave of the old gentleman with regret, and could not help reflecting how much more instructive and entertaining was his conversation, than that of most of the young men that one meets by scores, in what is designated, the best society. Every traveller who visited Athens whilst M. Fauvel

resided there, always made honourable mention of his name, if they published the record of their travels.

On a bright sunny morning, at length I departed from Smyrna, and embarked on board a fine steamer, of which I forget the name, but well remember it was a handsome vessel, and that the commander's name was Viscomti, a descendant from the once powerful family of that name, whose influence in olden time swayed the greater part of Italy. The engineer was an Englishman, named Beattie, an extremely civil and well informed man. The table, the berths, and all the appointments, were remarkably well regulated. We had amongst our passengers the Greek Archbishop of Ephesus, as fine, handsome, good-humoured looking old fellow as I ever saw. We had also some Turkish ladies, who appeared as elderly women, but I afterwards understood they were only five-and-twenty; but, on farther observation, I found that Turkish females, once out of their teens, lose all their youth, freshness, and bloom. They took a great deal of notice of an English young lady, who was one of the passengers, and appeared particularly pleased with her hands, which certainly were

very small and white. Those of the Turkish ladies were as great a curiosity to us, their nails being stained with henna, a deep red. Although they were persons of respectability, and one of them the wife of a pacha, they only took deck places, those being the cheapest, and made up their minds very cheerfully to pass all the night exposed to the inclemencies of the weather, in the keen month of March. However, the engineer said that at nightfall they should find room for them somewhere under shelter below. We skimmed swiftly through the bay, and bid adieu to Smyrna; and saw its mosques, its minarets, its kiosks, its castles, and lastly, even its mountains fade from our sight. Soon after we passed the island of Metelin, the ancient Lesbos, and next that of Tenedos, and at length entered the Hellespont, that spot so endeared to us by so many delightful associations. Who can pass it, without a thought recurring to the unfortunate Leander, and to more modern times, when our favourite poet and countryman, Byron, braved the current's force, and had nearly met his predecessor's fate?

The castles of the Dardanelles are not without interest, from the very important point which they

command. I must not omit to state we had passed by the reputed site of ancient Troy, although considerably distant. What an inexhaustible chain of ideas does not that classic and venerated spot now engender? It is highly interesting to sail between the shores of Asia and of Europe; the former highly fertile, the latter the reverse. The sites of Sestos and Abydos are pointed out; and which appear at some distance to shut the channel. We saw the town of Gallipoli, so famed for its leather and oil.

In the neighbourhood of the Dardanelles, are grown great quantities of vallonea. Perhaps many of my readers may not be aware of the meaning of the word, as it is principally known to the dyers, and consists of the cup of the acorn, which in these parts grow so large, as to be nearly the size of a small tea-cup, and resembles in its grain a fir-apple; although so much larger than any acorns produced in this country, yet they are grown upon small stunted-looking trees.

By the aid of steam, we passed pretty swiftly through the narrow strait, in spite of the wind being in our teeth; but as we neared the forsaken-looking isle of Marmora, darkness and rain drove

us below. We had by this time collected an immense number of Turks, who came crowding on board as passengers to Constantinople, from the different islands and shores which we passed, until the deck was quite covered with them: one only took a cabin passage. The roughness of the weather, and the rocking of the vessel, drove us early to our beds.

In no part of the world has the advantages of steam been more powerfully exemplified, than in the passage of the Dardanelles. Captain Viscomti assured me that he had passed and repassed the same English merchant vessel six times, in his different passages and returns from Constantinople to Smyrna, which had been in vain essaying to effect the entrance; but owing to the narrowness of the strait, and a strong wind being right a-head, sailing vessels were frequently a month waiting for an opportunity, whilst by the aid of steam, we passed through all difficulties, running against adverse winds and currents, in a few hours, including the stoppages we continually made to take in passengers. Sometimes the voyage from Smyrna to Constantinople is attended with great difficulties and dangers. I knew a Mr. and Mrs.

Lee Green, who were so unfortunate as to be wrecked twice; and although by dint of the greatest exertions they were enabled to save their lives, they lost all their clothes and effects. They were compelled to abandon the vessel in which they first embarked, and entered another, which was equally unfortunate; and Mrs. Green, with her child in her arms, had a cord fastened round her body, and was obliged to be pulled through the surf by men who were on the shore; and she absolutely at last arrived at Constantinople, clad in some sailor's clothes, having none whatever of her own left. In returning to Smyrna, they were twenty-five days, and the steamer generally is but forty hours at the utmost; and at the time I left Constantinople, had never had any serious accident, although they had encountered some tremendous weather.

The charge I certainly consider high, being twenty dollars for the first cabin, which is undoubtedly much dearer in proportion than the steamers are generally in Europe. The higher price of coals is the reason which is adduced; but I have no doubt, ere this, the price of the passage is diminished.

CHAPTER XIV.

CONSTANTINOPLE—ITS SPLENDID APPEARANCE—GALATA—ECCENTRIC ENGLISHMAN—TURKISH LADIES—CEMETERIES—EDITOR OF THE MONITEUR OTTOMAN—RUMOURED CAUSE OF HIS DEATH—HIS INFLUENCE WITH THE SERASKIER—HIS MOTIVES DEFENDED—HIS RESIDENCE—STREETS OF CONSTANTINOPLE—THE BAZAARS—INSOLENCE OF A TURKISH WOMAN—SLAVE MARKET—THE SLAVES RECONCILED TO THEIR FATE—SLAVE DEALERS—THE SULTAN—HIS MOTHER A BEAUTIFUL FRENCHWOMAN—PROCESSION—PRINCE DE SAMOS—HIS GENERAL POLITICAL INFORMATION—THE AUTHOR'S BLUNDERS—THE SERASKIER—HIS DEPORTMENT—HIS COSTUME—TURKISH RECRUITS—SERASKIER'S ORIGIN—HIS CAREER—HIS POLICY—GOVERNOR OF SMYRNA—HIS DEATH—TRIUMPH OF THE SERASKIER—HIS POWER AND AVARICE—HIS BAD PRINCIPLES—THE MOSQUES—THE BATHS—THE SERAGLIO—THE HIPPODROME—THE FOUNTAINS—WANT OF PRECAUTIONS—EXTENT OF FIRES CAUSED BY NEGLECT.

ABOUT four o'clock in the morning the cry of "*Un Incendie,*" and that we were arrived, made me spring from my bed with much alacrity; and if I were to live a thousand years, never shall I forget the sensation of wonder and delight which I experienced on ascending the deck.

We were indeed arrived at Constantinople, and anchored alongside that extraordinary city, which a tremendous fire had so illuminated, that its domes, its mosques, and minarets, were all tinted with a bright red glare, and had so sublime, so magnificent an effect, that my faculties for a moment appeared bewildered. It seemed to me that some romantic dream deceived me, and that before me arose a fairy city. "Surely," thought I, "this is like some wild vision in the 'Arabian Nights' Entertainments.' No earth-built fabrics are those before me!—no! they have too light, too fantastic, too scenic an air, to be dull, solid reality!" My reader must consider the very peculiar circumstances under which Constantinople arose to my view. I had but just awakened, and rushed from my sleep to the deck: the more elevated buildings alone were illumined by the light of the fire, and all beneath was one dark impenetrable gloom, so that the tall taper, elegant-looking minarets, appeared to rise as if from chaos; their round and gilded domes shone resplendently, as it were, betwixt heaven and earth. At length, imagination filled up the vacuum, rendering the invisible grand as the visible, until I exclaimed to

myself, "Surely this is the most beautiful city in the world!" Wrapped in this contemplation, I paced the deck with the most intense anxiety for daylight, as then it was promised us we should land. At last the wished-for moment arrived; and, ere I proceed farther, beauteous "queen of cities!" let me offer at thy fair shrine my humble tribute of homage, to add to the bursts of admiration which have been called forth from thousands, at the first sight of thine ancient walls and lofty towers! I jumped into the boat with so much eagerness, which was to carry us ashore, that I elicited a loud scream from the boatman and a gentleman who was my fellow-travelling companion. "Take care!" exclaimed they each, in their own language, "you'll upset the boat!" "You thought you were leaping into a Smyrna boat," added the latter (and, certainly, they are large and solid enough to go a long voyage). Indeed, if our trunks had not been at the bottom of the boat in which I leaped so incautiously, I must have capsized it.

The Constantinople boats are very long, light, and narrow; they are of oak, which is most elaborately carved all over in festoons of flowers, and

all kinds of ornament that fancy can devise. We thought in the bustle we could escape the observation of the custom-house officers, and rowed off as fast as we could; but when we were about half way across, we were hailed by most stentorian lungs, and were compelled to turn back, and proceed some distance out of our way to have our trunks examined; but, by giving a basheish, the Turkish word for a fee, mine were exempted; my companion's was just opened and peeped into, and finding it all right, the surveyor took my word and my money for the correctness of the rest. Once more then we were seated in the boat, and on our way for our destination, when I, all eagerness to see every thing right and left, twisted about so that I was again called to order; my companion and the boatman vowing, that I should overset the boat if I did not sit still, and keep a proper equilibrium. I afterwards found that it was necessary in those boats to keep constantly a fixed position.

At length, we landed at Galata; and, oh, ye fairy visions! ye bright delusive dreams! how quickly did they change into common-place matter of fact! We landed at a nasty crowded place, and were soon threading our way through filthy

little lanes and streets, having a tremendous hill to climb; dead cats and dead dogs here and there strewed our path, sometimes varied by a dead rat, or crushed mouse, as we kept mounting to Pera, which we at last reached, and I took up my abode at the Hotel de l'Europe.

Constantinople is admitted by all persons to have a most beautiful appearance, seen from the sea; the exterior is all that is delightful: but most parts of the interior are almost as horrible as the other is beautiful. They do record such strange things of Englishmen, that it is very difficult to believe all we hear about them; but it is related that an English gentleman arrived at Constantinople, and when moored alongside of it, he was so enchanted with what he saw, that he would not land for fear a view of the interior should dissolve the charm, having heard that the streets, alleys, &c., were so detestable; he therefore remained on board until he met with a vessel bound for Europe, and returned by the first that would receive him, retaining all the delights of the impression with which the city had struck him, as it suddenly burst upon his view.

The main street of Pera is about as ugly and

uninteresting as it is possible to imagine any place well could be; but in following it to the extreme end, you arrive at a spot, which well repays you for the trouble, as you then find yourself in the grand Champ de Mort, being their largest cemetery, and which certainly is a most interesting spot, commanding several beautiful views; and it possesses in itself all those characteristics which give such interest to a Turkish burying-ground. This is also the great promenade, and here the traveller may see numbers of specimens of Turkish and Armenian youth and beauty. The veil which covers the mouth just passing under the nose, leaves so much exposed as often to display such perfect features, that one regrets that the mouth and chin should be invisible.

Amongst the Greek women here I also found some that were extremely handsome. The beauty of the Turkish and Armenian girls has a peculiarity in it which I have seldom seen in the West: the skin so clear, so thoroughly pure, that no freckle, no spot nor redness, which often intrudes in a lady's complexion, are seen on these females' fair faces; the form of the nose so exquisitely defined—the nostrils so small and delicate

(unlike those of some women that I have even heard called pretty, which appear like two gaping unsightly holes, and set sometimes nearly vertically instead of horizontally); their eyes so exquisitely clear; that part which is commonly called the white of the eye, so pure and blue; their eye-lashes so dark and silky, giving so fine an expression to the eye. European ladies tell me, that when the veil is down, and the mouth and chin are seen, the face does not appear so handsome; and, I am convinced, from long observation, and having devoted much time and study to physiognomy, that the mouth is the feature which sins the oftenest, and that there are many persons in most countries, that can sooner boast of any other feature being fine, than the mouth: all throughout the East, it is apt to be too large. This same character we find in the Jews, who, doubtless, originally came from the East, and still preserve that style of face so general throughout Asia.

The Armenians have a singular custom of walking one after the other, seniority taking precedence, the mother going first, the daughters then following, according to their age.

Their burying-grounds present one curious feature: on their tombstones something is engraved as a representation of some instrument or tool which indicates their trade or profession, such as a pair of scissars, meaning that the defunct was a tailor; a yard measure for a draper, and a pair of compasses for an architect, &c.

There is another cemetery to the west of Pera, called Le Petit Champ de Mort, or little burying-ground, which is very extensive; the view from parts of it most delightful. I never could pass by this commanding spot without stopping awhile to admire the beautiful prospect expanding before me. The fine tall cypresses, which formed the foreground; the channel, in which were riding the majestic ships of the line; beyond, Constantinople; and, in the extreme distance, the Sea of Marmora, or, as it is sometimes called, the White Sea, which is seen behind the great capital, looking almost like a bright cloud hanging over it; and one might be deceived in imagining it was so, were it not for the vessels which are seen skimming along this glassy-looking sheet of water. In this cemetery are situated some of the handsomest houses of the merchants of Pera, and also are to be found the

most rugged groups of Turkish cottages, tumbling to decay: all that is desolate to live in, but all that is picturesque to sketch. Broad walks, narrow paths, running streams, hill and dale, all are to be found in this same cemetery; and several grotesque little sort of temples or chapels richly ornamented; marble fountains; an immense variety of tombstones, of all the different descriptions that invention could devise; different sorts of trees are here, sometimes mingled with the cypresses, amongst which some mouldering remains appear of ruined mosques and minarets, &c.; bounded as it is by the turreted old Genoese walls of Galata, with the very picturesque slopes, &c., altogether combining to render this cemetery one of the most interesting spots I know.

Having thirty letters of introduction to deliver, I was well aware I had no sinecure before me, and hired a *valet de place*, as a guide to the different houses to which they were addressed, the greater part of which were for Pera; some for the merchants of Galata; a few for the adjacent villages; one alone for Constantinople, and that which interested me the most, as the Europeans have never until now been allowed to reside there.

The person for whom I had a letter was Monsieur Blaque, the editor of the *Moniteur Ottoman*, the only newspaper published at Constantinople, and for whom the Sultan had allotted a palace. I found him a most highly educated man, possessing much information, and the most gentlemanly manners; his conversation far superior to that of any individual I had met with in Turkey, his hospitality keeping pace with his other good qualities, and it was with much regret I heard of his death some time since. It appeared a grand innovation, the idea of having a newspaper in such a country as Turkey; but I am confident in stating it was placed under great restrictions, as M. Blaque begged I would not judge of himself after his paper.

Some have ascribed the death of M. Blaque to poison, administered at the instigation of the Russians, on account of their suspecting him, from the tone of his writings, to have been gained over to the English interest, by the all attractive power, which, as foreigners pretend, has swayed the world. "*British gold*," need I state is that charm, which has, indeed, from its force, either directly or indirectly dissolved kingdoms, and annihilated even a

powerful empire, as who but England furnished that *nerve* of war to Russia, Austria, and Prussia, in the late protracted struggle? That M. Blaque perished through the agency of Russia, I do not believe: that her policy is artful and subtle, I readily admit; but direct crimes, attacking the lives of individuals, have never been *proved* against the Russian government, although much has been asserted on the subject.

That the Muscovites looked upon M. Blaque with a very jealous eye there can be little doubt, as that gentleman's influence with the Turkish government did not proceed alone from his paper, but from his close intimacy with the Seraskier, from whom, as being the most powerful man in the Ottoman empire, emanate every important change or improvement which takes place in the administration of affairs in Turkey. Those new regulations which have been effected in the military department, spring directly from him, as connected with his office of commander-in-chief of the forces; whilst those alterations in the civil arrangements of the country, arise frequently through the influence he has in all the branches

of the government, whether judicial, commercial, or financial.

That M. Blaque's advice to the Seraskier, often ran counter to the tyrannising ascendency of Russia, I have every reason to imagine; that he would always have the interest of his own country in view, as far as was consistent with equity, I have not the least doubt; and that he would generally advocate the cause of England, I am equally convinced, from his enthusiastic admiration of its government, and its institutions, &c. Of this I am certain, that his influence would ever be exerted, as far as lay in his power, to soften and amend those Turkish laws and customs which press so cruelly and iniquitously on the humbler classes of the Ottoman dominions. That Anglomania to which some pretend M. Blaque owed his destruction, certainly did exist in him to a great degree; so much so, that he assured me it was his intention to send his sons to England for their education, either to Oxford or Cambridge.

Before I entirely dismiss this subject, I shall take this opportunity of replying to the frequent observations which have been made as to many

exceptionable articles, with which the pages of the *Moniteur Ottoman* has been disgraced. M. Blaque, I do not deny, has often been compelled to justify measures which neither his heart nor his judgment could approve; but he was compelled so to do, or forfeit the position which he occupied, in which case he would no longer have possessed that power of doing good, which he so often exerted for the benefit of the oppressed. I am aware that many will contend, that no man ought to advocate such proceedings as his own sense of right must condemn; to which I reply, that because an individual cannot suddenly produce all the benefit he could wish, if he be able gradually to effect somewhat towards alleviating the miseries of human nature, it is not only his policy, as regards his own interest, but his duty as a philanthropist, to make some sacrifice of his feelings, to retain that post by which he is enabled to assist his fellow creatures. Had M. Blaque refused to state that which was dictated to him by the government, he would immediately have been superseded by another, who might neither have obtained the same power, nor had the same will to do good as M. B. evinced.

There was something interesting about his residence, as giving an illustration of the style of Turkish taste in their palaces or handsome mansions. In most of the rooms, which were immense, the floor is raised nearly a foot above the level of that part of the room where you first enter. This appears to me to be the remains of a sort of feudal feeling, as vassals, or persons of an humble degree, keep on the lower part, whilst visitors of a higher grade mount the step, and at once mingle with the family.

I noticed some paintings on the walls, of groups of fruit or of flowers, which were most exquisitely executed, but, from the crust which time had wrought over them, appeared to have been completed at some distant period; whilst there were others which were of more recent production, and most execrably bad, which might have led one to suppose that the art of painting had retrograded in Turkey; but I rather imagine that the former must have been the performance of the Genoese, at the time they were in possession of the country, as they always were, and are to this day remarkably celebrated for their decorative paintings. The Turks, it is well known, will not permit the



F. Herve Delt.

P. Gauci Lithog.

STREET IN CONSTANTINOPLE.

London Published by Whittaker & Co.s Ave Maria Lane

representation of any thing living, although the Sultan, and some of the Pachas, have set a contrary example by emerging from this superstitious prohibition of their religion.

I had occasion to pass through many of the streets of Constantinople in my way to M. Blaque's, and I found them highly interesting: the figures that were moving about, to me were infinitely more amusing than the majority of those I met at Pera, which consisted principally of merchants or their clerks, all dressed in a slovenly sort of European style; but in Constantinople one rarely meets a person in any other than the eastern garb. The houses are mostly built of wood, and painted; there is a great predominance of red, over that of any other colour, and I have understood, that it is considered a high privilege to be allowed to paint your house that sort of ruby tint so much in vogue in this part of the world, and that many pay for the permission; and sometimes it is granted in consequence of the proprietor having rendered any service to his sovereign, or his country.

Their shops are all open, no windows being in use, the same as was the case formerly in our own

country, and is still for butchers, fishmongers, &c., and this custom is continued generally in many of the ancient quarters of the towns in the south of France. Large balconies with heavy rails, or balustrades, projecting windows, kiosks, and terraces are the principal features which characterise the Turkish style of building.

As to the bazaars of Constantinople, they have been so often and so well described, that I shall not attempt a very detailed account of them. All the varieties of merchandise that can be thought of, are found in these extraordinary establishments, and arranged in different quarters, each having a portion assigned to them for the same description of articles, as a certain space for jewellery, for drapery, for boots and slippers, for linen, and, in short, each commodity has its particular station. The bazaar for arms I found the most interesting; here you find the weapons used in almost all parts of the world, and in almost every different age, of course those of the east were the most conspicuous, and here the Europeans generally lay out immense sums of money, and many are the histories appertaining to the very richly worked firelocks, pistols, yatagans,

poignards &c., and as to sabres almost every purchaser flatters himself he has gained a great acquisition in becoming the possessor of a true Damascus blade.

Certainly the extreme beauty of the workmanship of many of their arms, renders them highly valuable as ornaments; but it is admitted that for service their pistols, however richly they are studded, are inferior to the English and French. The view of the arms all arranged together has a most striking effect, and gives the appearance completely of a museum. The bazaar which contains the costumes presents a most brilliant show of colours and of glitter; vests, jackets, robes, and cloaks with the most costly embroidery, sashes, muslin veils, trimmed, or spangled with gold or silver, shawls of the richest patterns and of the most expensive descriptions, all contributed to produce an extremely dazzling display, which at first bewilders the eye, requiring many visits before the attention is rivetted.

The jewellery quarter is by no means contemptible; the Armenians are rather clever in setting stones, and working in gold. The bazaar of boots, shoes, and slippers, should not be passed unnoticed,

on some of the latter, the most elaborate embroidery and fine work is displayed, and as to the different colours of the boots, they rival the rainbow; but a Turk alone is allowed to wear yellow, and *all* the Turkish *women* have yellow boots, and trowsers of the same colour. The Armenians mostly wear red, and the Jewesses blue; green is another colour, which the Turks do not like to see any one wear but a Mussulman, as being considered as belonging to Mahomet.

I was once walking with an European lady who had a green veil, a Turkish woman took hold of it, and said something which I did not understand, but which the lady, who comprehended their language, informed me was as follows: "Would that the time were come, when I might tear this to pieces;" but they are in these respects much more moderate than formerly. Ladies could not walk the streets some years back, without the risk of being insulted: for my own part during my residence in Turkey, I never met with any thing in the shape of an insult from the men; the women have sometimes set the dogs at me, and the children have pelted me with stones, but even that has not been of frequent occurrence.

At two different periods, I have surprised females without their veils; in both instances they were very young, and they both did the same thing, which was to make faces at me. I believe they acted in that manner from a feeling that their beauty should not be exposed to Christian eyes, and therefore that it was their duty to distort their countenances, as the only means of obviating the bad effects of so untoward an event as having been taken unawares without their veils.

The slave-market is a scene that is calculated to make the deepest impression on the reflecting observer; there are seen our fellow creatures, like horses or other cattle, exposed for sale, and yet the merriest looking set of creatures I ever beheld; the greater portion of them come from Abyssinia and Nubia, and are blacks, or of so dark a colour, as to approach very nearly the sable hue. Their clothing was a sort of chemise, and over all a large sheet, which has a picturesque effect, falling into broad folds, and, with the movements of the figure, ever assuming graceful forms.

In the houses which surround the yard of the slave market, are the Georgian slaves, and amongst

them there are some who are really beautiful; they have the advantage over the Circassians of complexion; they look at one, *en passant*, with a good-humoured smile; and some of them said a few words, which I understood to be, "Do buy me;" they would like European masters, but the Franks are not permitted to purchase. Yet the Jews, although so thoroughly despised, are allowed a privilege that is denied to the Christians, and it happens sometimes that a Jew will buy a handsome slave, then sell her to a European, who, in many instances, will immediately give the slave her liberty, from which she can seldom reap any benefit, not knowing the means of keeping herself, being ignorant of any trade, having been brought up by her parents merely for sale. Some few are educated, learning music, singing, and dancing, and when bought, become the mistress of a rich pacha, bey, or officer of state, and have negroes to attend upon them, whereas when at home with their families the labour of household work has been their occupation. Hence the idea of slavery to them is divested of its horrors, their home presenting no other idea than hard toil and hard fare, whilst ease

and luxury are before their eyes, as the reward for the chains of bondage.

Some there are amongst the Europeans, who have purchased female slaves, not with the purest motives; and there are a few instances of those purchasers having ameliorated their condition from that of the degraded state of mistress, to the honourable rank of wife; amongst the Turks and Eastern nations, this is a common practice. But no such hopes for poor blackey; no chances can ever probably occur by which the negro's fate is likely to be softened, and yet, as they sat in the market, how happy they appeared. One, on whose merry looking face I had fixed my gaze, observed it, and immediately commenced playing bo-peep with me, by covering her face over with her sheet, leaving one eye exposed, then concealing it and shewing the other, at the same time laughing so excessively, that she could hardly preserve her equilibrium.

The auctioneer appeared to me, after having ordered one to stand up, to deliver a sort of oration, which I could not understand, but imagined that he was giving a list of the different virtues of the selected being, with all her recommenda-

tory qualities; another man then walks round calling out the different biddings, the slave following all the time, giggling incessantly. Many of them had immense brass rings on their arms and legs, and, in some instances, plates of metal were worn by them.

Amongst the number that were waiting for buyers, one alone had a dejected countenance; he was a Georgian youth, and looked exactly like an English boy; he might be fifteen or sixteen: he stated that he had lived seven years with his master, who, no longer requiring any servant, he had hoped would have given him his liberty; but, instead of that, had sent him there to be sold. The gentleman who was with me spoke the Turkish language fluently, and gave me the sense of what the youth said, at the same time stating that he was acquainted with the master, and had not thought him capable of behaving in so unkind a manner to the poor youth. All the male slaves had chains round their legs.

The slave-dealers are mostly Egyptians, who wear a most extraordinary costume, loading themselves with an immense burthen of drapery, consisting of shawls, sashes, robes, &c., and a turban

that might include fifty yards of muslin. I could not ascertain for what price the slaves sold, but have been informed that it varies from sixteen pounds up to six hundred, which has been sometimes given for a beautiful, accomplished, and youthful Georgian.

I accompanied Mr. Churchill, who has since been a sufferer from the summary manner in which the Turks dispense justice, or rather injustice, to see the present Sultan, Mahmoud the Second, proceed to the principal Mosque during the Bairam; I had a good view of him as he rode there and back. His countenance is not so fine as many of the aristocratic Turks; his nose is straight to the tip, then it swells out, and has a coarse red appearance, seeming to tell a Bacchanalian tale; his beard is black; his eyes are not fine, and have a sort of dizzy look; his stature is about the middle height, and he is not so corpulent as most of his ministers. He has much personal vanity. An Armenian, who has taken many miniatures of him, showed me one which I did not find like him, observing, that he had given him a regularly straight nose, quite in the Grecian style. The artist replied, that he was conscious

of that; but that the Sultan wished it so, as he did not like the knubble at the tip, which totally spoiled the symmetry of that prominent feature. The painter also informed me that the extreme blackness of the grand Seignor's beard proceeded from his dyeing it, and he would not permit sundry red spots in the miniature, which in his own face were rather conspicuous. He was born in July, 1784, but certainly has not the appearance of being near so old as he really is. His mother was French, and celebrated for her extreme beauty; she was taken, when very young, on her passage from one of the French colonies, by an Algerine corsair, and ultimately sold to the father of Mahmoud; she took great pains with his education, and succeeded, in some degree, in softening the natural ferocity of his temper; hence, he is *generally* admitted to be less cruel than his predecessors. He is well known for having departed from many of the prejudices attached to the Mahomedan religion, and in none more conspicuously than his extreme devotion to the juice of the grape. At present, he interferes but little with the affairs of state, being rather of an indolent habit. Most of those European ame-

liorations, attributed to his suggestions, which have been recently introduced into his dominions, having being principally effected by the Seraskier, whilst those which regard the navy have been chiefly at the instigation of Tahir Pacha, the present Capitan Pacha, or high admiral.

Mahmoud the Second has been accused of many of those enormities which mostly deform the biography of Sultans, as having his brother murdered, as also two of his females who were pregnant, in order to prevent any possibility of future aspirants to his throne. Some have even stated that he caused the death of his eldest son, with a variety of other crimes; but his partisans (even amongst the Franks) deny the truth of these accusations, moderate men doubt them, whilst his enemies confidently proclaim them, and an author is too apt to take the report of that coterie into which his introductions have mostly thrown him.

When I saw the Sultan, he was accompanied by his ministers and principal officers of his household; they were some of them very good looking as to features, but were mostly fat and short; the best-looking amongst them was his son-in-law: but from their having adopted the European cos-

tume, they have no longer that dignified appearance which they once had when clad in that garb, which was so thoroughly in keeping with the peculiar cast of their countenances. There were some men who walked in the procession, whose feathers were as high nearly as the first floor windows: I never could have imagined anything so tremendous in the shape of a plume. The most interesting objects of the whole concern were the horses, twelve of which were led, being the choicest specimens of the Sultan's stud: they were so richly caparisoned, that it was impossible to conceive anything more splendid; the housings of the saddle had on each side an ornamental trophy, entirely composed of diamonds and precious stones: as the spaces occupied by these decorations are larger than a man's hand, the value must be immense; the borderings are also formed of jewels worked in various patterns. The animals were Arabians of the finest race, and as perfect in their symmetry and proportions, as if they had been selected as models of their species; I therefore must say that the quadrupeds in their exterior had much the advantage over the bipeds.

M. Blaque had appointed an hour with me, to

present me to the Prince de Samos; but being suddenly required by the Seraskier, his eldest son, a boy of only ten years old, was deputed to be my escort to Fanar, where resided M. Vogoridi, Prince de Samos, and this child proved one of the many examples of the precociousness of children in this part of the world: he spoke Turkish, Greek, French, and Italian, with equal fluency, and could converse passably in English, he played well on the guitar, and his drawings displayed so much genius, that I am confident, with proper instructions, he might become a first-rate artist. Having been nominated my conductor, he looked upon me quite as under his guardianship, and his care and anxiety about me was quite amusing. When about to enter the boat, he cautioned me to be sure to step exactly in the middle, pointing to the precise spot whereon I was to place my foot, to avoid the too frequent occurrence of upsetting: He then instructed me where to sit, the position I was to preserve, &c.; and a short time before our arrival at our destination, he directed me to pay then, as, he observed, it would cause a demur if deferred until the time of getting out of the boat, which would be better avoided: he, moreover,

told me to give the boatman a piastre, and, if he grumbled much, a few paras more.

At length we reached the prince's palace; and a pretty lumbering concern it was. We passed through a long court yard and several half-furnished, gloomy-looking apartments, and at last were ushered into that of the prince, whom we found surrounded by a number of grim and swarthy attendants. My young introducer played his part with as much grace and ease, as if he had been *premier gentilhomme de Louis quinze.* I found the prince an extremely animated, intelligent man, with a most profound knowledge of the politics of Europe; not only well acquainted with the general character and feelings of tory, whig, and radical, but appeared well informed as to the principal individuals who formed the strength of the three parties; and is reputed to be equally well versed in the political intrigues of Paris, Vienna, and St. Petersburgh. In him was an illustration of how ill at ease are the natives of Eastern climes, when compelled to sit on a chair. In taking a portrait of the prince, I found it necessary, on account of the light, to place him where he could no longer avail himself of his sofas; and they being fixed to the

wall, could not be removed: a chair, therefore, was sent for; and it was soon perceptible that he was very uneasy whilst seated upon it, in the fashion of the Western world. However, after shuffling about some time, he tucked one of his legs under him, and soon after the other followed, as any one habituated to the Turkish method never can bear them hanging down, according to our custom. When thus perched upon his heels, he appeared perfectly at his ease, conversed with freedom, and seemed very anxious to obtain from me, what little information he could glean regarding the state of Greece when I left it; and the most minute particulars respecting the institutions of my own country. In fact, I believe him to be one of those men, who, when they have an opportunity of conversing with any foreigner, will endeavour to gain something from him, to add to their stock of knowledge.

In the prince's palace, I made some awkward kind of errors. I mistook the son for a servant, the daughter for a housemaid, and the wife for a cook, although the young lady was rather a pretty, good-humoured looking girl; yet her attire and her demeanor were so humble, that it displayed no superiority over the

other females who were domestics. She possesses most amiable manners, and is betrothed to the eldest son of Prince Misloch, the reigning sovereign of Servia, her eldest sister being married to Prince Ghika, who at present governs Moldavia. The Prince de Samos is head Dragoman at Constantinople, and a man of considerable influence.

I experienced much pleasure in visiting the Seraskier, Khosrew Pacha, a man who has played so important a *rôle* for the last forty years, in the occupation of the highest post of the Ottoman empire. I was presented to him by Constantin, his principal physician, but not until after I had some altercation with the guards, who would not permit me to enter in boots. I was not inclined to pull them off, and gave them to understand I would not. Still they insisted, and I resisted. At last Constantin, who had entered to see if his highness would receive us, returned to my assistance, and represented to them, that as I was a stranger, I was not acquainted with their custom, and had not provided myself with those sort of large slippers which they put over their boots on entering the mosques, or in the presence of the highest personages. These representations had

the desired effect. I was admitted into an immense anti-chamber, and, passing through numbers of guards, was at length ushered into the presence of the Seraskier. He was seated on a sofa, and Constantin, even at the time he was introducing me, fell on his knees; a look of surprise from me did not escape the keen eye of the Seraskier, who bade the son of Æsculapius to give me a chair. I was certainly much astonished at the prostration of Constantin, a man holding the rank of a gentleman celebrated for his wealth, inhabiting one of the handsomest houses in Turkey, and giving some of the most numerous and stylish parties of any known amongst the Frank society, after those of the ambassadors.

The Seraskier first offered me a pinch of snuff, but as I never defiled the purity of my nose with that offensive dust, I was obliged to decline, or I should have been compelled to have sneezed at his highness, for at least a quarter of an hour: he then ordered me a pipe, with no better success, as smoking was an accomplishment that ever proved beyond my abilities; lastly, some coffee was presented to me, which I would gladly have also refused, but feared the Seraskier would think I

disdained his proffered hospitality, and I punished myself by taking some of his nasty coffee, which was without milk or sugar, and as thick as mud: in fact, it had but one merit, which was, that there was but little of it; and with some difficulty I contrived to swallow about half of it, without making a grimace.

The Seraskier is a short, stout man, with a very red face and white beard; his features are fine, and there is an expression in them of loftiness, and which denotes that the possessor is a man who has been accustomed to command. He was dressed in as plebeian and unbecoming a manner as a man could well desire, having on a large dark blue smock-frock, which came nearly to his heels, and was merely open at the throat, but which was concealed by his long beard. Like all the modernized Turks, on his head he wore a fesse, which, as usual with those ugly red caps, descended to the eye-brow, thereby concealing the forehead, one of the most important features to a physiognomist, and the surest index of character to a phrenologist. There was a degree of simplicity in his manner and ideas, which I could but admire. When I took his portrait, I asked him in what

costume he would wish to be represented; his answer was, "Just as I am!" "But," said Constantin, "will you not have any of your numerous orders displayed in the picture?" "Not one!" was the reply.

During one of my interviews with the Seraskier, the Prince de Samos entered, and remained on his knees all the time he was present in the audience apartment. To see this man in so humble a posture did, indeed, excite my amazement, accustomed as I had been to see him surrounded by a numerous retinue, and dispensing his orders with the independent air of a reigning sovereign.

I was much amused one morning at the Seraskier's, by the introduction of about sixty or seventy youths, who were just arrived at Constantinople as recruits, or conscripts, perhaps, they may more correctly be termed. I know not from whence they were collected, but a more complete set of scarecrows I never beheld. Some of them were blacks, and their legs so totally devoid of any thing in the shape of a calf, that they looked like round rulers: they had each a bundle in one hand, and their shoes in the other; whilst the expres-

sion of their countenances was mostly that stupid vacant look, that of besotted ignorance, often to be met with in our own raw country recruits,—the mouth and eyes constantly open, yet the latter appearing to stare at every thing and look at nothing. They were drawn up in a semicircle before the Seraskier for his inspection; and as I was sitting next to him, I had the same advantages in viewing this awkward squad. But he was not satisfied at so general a glance at these hopeful sons of Mars, but went up to each, and, examining all closely, selected ten whom I suppose he thought the best looking, and separated them from the others.

The Seraskier was originally a Georgian slave, and was fortunate enough to become a great favourite with Selim III.; some state in consequence of his invariable good humour, which he seems to preserve to this day. He first appears in a conspicuous light in the page of history as the governor of Egypt, which position he occupied on the arrival of Napoleon in that country; and there remained subsequent to the evacuation of his territory by the French troops, after their surrender to those of the British.

Khosrew, during the invasion of the Republican army, and the occupation of the country by the English forces, did not suffer the opportunity thus afforded him of seeing European tactics and appointments, to escape his keen penetration; and hoping to introduce them with advantage amongst the Egyptians, he commenced his operations to that effect, it appears, somewhat too suddenly, as a general rising of the troops immediately took place against him, and the individual who headed the revolt was Mehemet Ali, the present governor of Egypt, then only holding the rank of colonel, but who has since introduced those same European innovations which he had so successfully opposed, when suggested by his predecessor, Khosrew; whose life, even, was placed in jeopardy, but who was fortunate enough to escape any severer punishment than his being sent in disgrace to Constantinople, where his inexhaustible good humour reinstated him, in some degree, in the good graces of his sovereign, but who, to preserve appearances, sent the disgraced governor into exile, near Angora, in the district of a pacha, whose head the Porte sought, but who considered him too powerful to attempt taking it openly.

This delicate affair was entrusted to Khosrew,

who soon ingratiated himself with the ill-fated pacha, obtaining his confidence, until he was induced, unattended, except by one servant, to visit Khosrew at his residence, who took his opportunity, read him the firman of the Sultan demanding his life, and at the same time had the bowstring applied; Khosrew lending the girdle which encircled his waist for that purpose. However the supporters of the deceased pacha would have sustained him whilst living, and that they could be aided by his talents and power; yet when their murmurs could avail nothing in restoring their favourite to animation, they bowed in silent sadness to the firman of the Porte, which Khosrew read to them on their first entrance and discovery of their strangled governor.

But the Seraskier's master-stroke of policy and dissimulation was evinced in the method he adopted to ensnare the governor of Smyrna, for whose head the Sultan had for some time been longing, but whose power rendered him too formidable to be attacked by open force. To stratagem, therefore, he was compelled to resort; and who so capable of conducting it with success as the subtle Khosrew, who, on his return to Constantinople from Angora, with the cranium of the

obnoxious pacha, was received by the government with open arms, and some time after elevated to the rank of capitan pacha. To him was confided the delicate mission of having the governor of Smyrna dispatched, who had long given great umbrage to the Porte by many of his measures, which he had enacted in direct opposition to the instructions of his government.

Khosrew at length, as capitan pacha, set sail with a small fleet, but did not proceed directly to Smyrna, as that might have awakened some suspicion of his object. He, therefore, cruised for a considerable time about the Archipelago; and, on his return to Constantinople, cast anchor in the bay of Smyrna. He then wrote to Kiatib Oglou (the governor), representing to him how well he must be aware that his conduct had given offence to the Sultan, at the same time stating how much it would be to his interest to effect a reconciliation with the Porte, and how happy he (Khosrew) should feel, could he, by the means of his mediation, bring so desirable an event to bear; observing, however, that certain concessions would be expected, which would form the subject of their future correspondence. Kiatib thankfully received

his proposition, expressed his eagerness to reinstate himself in the good graces of his sovereign, and demanded an explanation as to the conditions which Khosrew would require.

An inordinate love of lucre had always characterised all the proceedings of the latter. He, therefore, wrote to the former, stating that nothing is done *well* in this world without it be well paid for; and as his becoming a mediator was an advantage to Kiatib's interest, of the highest importance, so must it be recompensed in an adequate proportion, before any further communication continued between them. The governor most willingly embraced this proposal, from the idea which exists throughout all Turkey, that if any one accepts your money as the price of his service, that he becomes bound to your interest, and that the promotion of your views is henceforth with him a sacred cause. And, to the honour of the Ottoman nation be it said, that he who receives a bribe seldom betrays or neglects the donor; therefore was Kiatib lulled into a blind confidence.

As soon as his deceiver had received the immense sum which the deceived had collected, the capitan pacha then proceeded to draw up a

list of the concessions which he required of the governor; to all which he cheerfully conceded. It now remained for Khosrew to give the finishing stroke to that diplomacy which he had hitherto displayed in so masterly a style. He therefore suggested that, in order that it might appear evident to the world, and, above all, to the Porte, the friendly feeling that existed between Kiatib and himself, that he should give a splendid fête, on board the fleet, as in honour to the governor of Smyrna, which would also be sealing the compact between them. Kiatib accepted the bait; great preparations were made for this important entertainment, and all the principal authorities of Smyrna were invited.

On the day appointed, the intended victim repaired on board with his suite, as also the other guests, with their respective attendants. All went on in harmony, and cheerfully "as a marriage bell." When, towards sunset, the visiters began to take their leave; but as Kiatib was about to do the same, he was kindly pressed by his host to tarry a short time longer; and when all others were departed, he read the fatal firman to the

astounded governor, who received the bowstring before he had time to upbraid his betrayer.

Thus successful in this difficult enterprise, Khosrew immediately weighed anchor, and sailed for the capital with the fruit of his victory ; where, as might be expected, he was received as a triumphant conqueror, and loaded with honours, was soon after made Seraskier, which invested him with the command of all the troops of the empire, rendering him the most influential man in Turkey, after the Sultan.

In addition to the above crimes, he has also stained his memory by presiding over the massacre of the Greeks at Ipsara. Yet he is not destitute of some redeeming qualities. He has always shown rather a predilection for the Franks; and was, in a great degree, instrumental in saving the Europeans from being massacred, when the news of the battle of Navarino arrived at Constantinople. He has been the promoter of many ameliorations, which have been latterly introduced into Turkey; and, not being influenced by those superstitions that have so long bound the Osmanleys in ignorance, he listens with eagerness to any foreign

improvement which he thinks may be adopted advantageously by the Turks.

His insatiate avarice is fed from many sources; he has an immense number of places in his gift, besides many firmans, or patents, for authorizing an individual to purchase certain crops in particular districts, either of wool, cotton, opium, &c., the government always fixing the price, which it generally does at such a low rate as will sometimes make the fortune of the purchaser. These licences, as also the lucrative posts, he sells, and Constantin his physician is constantly employed in finding the buyers of these disposables, receiving a handsome share in the profit, as it requires some judgment in fixing upon such persons as can afford to pay the highest price, or are of a sufficiently speculative turn to hazard a greater sum than more cautious men would like to risk; hence Constantin is called the Seraskier's jackall.

Khosrew is by no means famous for paying his debts; in fact there is a great difficulty, generally, in obtaining money from him. I remember a saddler, a native of Italy, who had furnished the Seraskier with two very expensive saddles, for which he had in vain repeatedly applied for pay-

ment, until he was tired. Some time after that he had given up all hopes of the debt, he received a large stock of saddles from Europe. The Seraskier soon hearing of it sent an agent to purchase three of the handsomest, stating that he would pay for them, and the two he had formerly bought at the same time; but the Italian was too cunning to be duped a second time, and refused. But, "Oh," quoth the agent, "if you let my master have these three he will probably purchase most of the others." "True," returned the saddler, "and the more he buys so much the worse for me, if he never pays for them;" still persisting in refusing to sell the Seraskier any thing until he had paid the old debt. The agent departed in dudgeon, even muttering something like a menace; but very soon returned with the required sum, which the saddler most joyfully received, but quite offended the agent in refusing him any farther credit, although he had come full fraught with powers from the Seraskier to purchase the whole of the new importation. However the Italian still declaring he would not let him have *any article whatever* unless the money was paid on the delivery of the goods, the agent at length made his exit quite in

a rage, but once more returned with the cash for the three saddles he had first selected. From the Seraskier's tower is one of the most extensive views of Constantinople, and presents a scene as curious as it is beautiful and interesting.

I was anxious to see the interior of one of their mosques, and was persuaded to visit that of the Sultan Acmet, as being one of the most handsome, (although not so large as that of St. Sophia) the gateways leading to it are undoubtedly most magnificent; the work is so elaborate and minute that it requires the closest examination to discover its beauties. The interior of the mosque had an imposing effect, although the *grand coup d'œil* is spoiled by the immense number of little lamps which are suspended from the ceiling by cords, and amongst them I observed many ostriches' eggs. The columns, their bases, and capitals are quite different to any style of architecture adopted in civilised countries, although in their windows, their roofings, their archways, &c. I observed symptoms of the Gothic, Saxon, and Norman, and I sometimes found as ornaments on some of the walls of their mosques the fleur de lys.

There is one building which we visited, which

is well worth the attention of the antiquary and the architect. It is entirely under ground. We descended a number of steps, and at last found ourselves in an immensely spacious vaulted edifice, separated by large heavy columns into different aisles. A parcel of little wretches were running about that which I at first thought was a rope-walk, but on approaching closer we found it was silk they were drawing out, and were running to and fro with much appearance of activity, and bustle of business. However, as soon as they saw us, they left their work to come and ask for money, and what with the sort of half light, admitted into the gloomy building, and the swarthy strange looking boys, who surrounded us, we began to think we were beset by so many imps. From the observations we were enabled to make, we came to the conclusion, that it must have been a Roman temple, judging principally from the style of the architecture, and that subterranean edifices were not unfrequent at the period which the construction of the building seemed to indicate.

I was induced to enter one of their vapour baths, but immediately begged to be led out on account of the extreme heat, and the overpower-

ing odour arising from some kind of perfume, which united occasioned me quite a stifling sensation. However, they assured me I should soon get accustomed to it, and in fact, after a short time, I found I could bear it somewhat better, but perspired tremendously, and experienced the greatest relief in returning again to the air. But there is no accounting for taste, as I found many of the Turks lounging about in their bathing dress, a sort of loose garment. After remaining in the bath some time, they retire to another room, and recline upon a sort of couch, are well wrapped up, and take their coffee.

Whoever has been at Constantinople is expected to say something of the Seraglio. Its extent is said to be three miles in circumference. To describe it with any thing like accuracy, appears to me almost impossible, without one had lived sufficient time in it to explore and analyse the many subjects it offers for observation. It is a building of immense extent, but its different parts are so patched one upon another, that, taken as a whole, it does not appear as one edifice. No sort of figure or form that ever was invented could give the remotest idea of the Seraglio. It resembles most

a town, and consists of an immense number of houses, temples, turrets, court-yards, domes, spires, minarets, archways, gateways, passages, galleries, balconies, all mixed together in the most strange and unconnected style that can be well imagined. Numerous are the walks, gardens, and fountains, within the walls of the Seraglio, and a space of ground large enough to manœuvre ten thousand cavalry. The gilding, painting, and varied coloured marbles all wrought together, have a rich but gaudy appearance, much in the style of the old taste as exhibited in the decorations of the palace of Versailles, still more elaborate but less judgment in the arrangement. But this immense pile, teeming with every symptom of eastern luxury, encumbered with profuse ornament, the work of thousands of men, the cost of millions of piastres, with its shady groves, its spreading lawns, and fantastic bowers, is now abandoned.

Too many reminiscences, pregnant with horror, are associated with the walls of the Seraglio, and could the stones and bricks be gifted with language they each could tell a tale of blood. The present Sultan, feeling all the recollections of how oft it had been the theatre of slaughter to his

predecessors, declined residing there, and lives sometimes in one, then in another, of his numerous palaces, having rather a mania for building more, several being in progress at the time I was at Constantinople, and there is very little doubt but that the gardens of the Seraglio will be suffered to become a waste, and the building a ruin. Amongst other interesting objects in the Turkish capital is a half burnt column, supposed to be Roman, but now a scorched dilapidated relic, the history of which appears to be consigned to oblivion.

An obelisk there is in the great square or rather oblong (called the Hippodrome, or by the Turks At Meidan, or horse market), of the highest interest, on account of its extreme antiquity. It was brought to Constantinople by Theodosius, about fifteen hundred years since, from Egypt, and from the hieroglyphical inscription upon it, it is conjectured to have been executed about the time of the second Sesostris. The edges are as sharp, and the polish as bright as if it had just come from the sculptor's chisel: it is one block of granite, and is sixty feet in height. In the same place stands also a pyramidal column 100

feet high, which appears in a falling state, and is formed of loose stones, also an Egyptian tripod, the date of which is very ancient but uncertain. To attempt a detailed description of all the wonders and interesting objects of Stamboul, as the Turks call Constantinople, would alone require a volume, and there are already many works confined to that subject, to which I refer those readers, who may be desirous of having the most accurate particulars of the different mosques and numerous public buildings which adorn Constantinople.

The great aqueduct is an erection which always attracts the stranger's eye, and is worth the trouble of ascending, and exploring for some distance, on account of the view one obtains from it of great part of the capital. But there are few objects more striking to the foreigner, than the fountains, some of which are really magnificent, built of the most beautiful marble, and richly ornamented by the minutest carving, and gilding: often they are furnished with a number of brass jugs attached to the fountain by chains, for the accommodation of any thirsty passer-by: this is almost the only instance in which I have seen any consideration in the Turkish government

for the wants of the people. The general indifference to human life is extraordinary. The wells are left as at Smyrna uncovered, even although they may be quite close to a frequented bath, and many are the persons who lose their lives in consequence. An English gentleman was most miraculously saved by his umbrella, which he was carrying open at the time, on account of the rain, its circumference being greater than the well into which he had slipped, just sustained him until his cries brought some persons to his assistance.

The same carelessness also is observable here as at Smyrna, which the traveller will do well to remember. When they have occasion to mend the pavement, the rubbish, as well as the hole which has been made is left all night, without any light to indicate it, or other security to prevent the passenger from breaking his legs by tumbling over it, which very often occurs, as in the streets there are not any lamps. Even the frequency of the plague might be much diminished, if due attention were paid to cleanliness; and, although they are improving in this respect, much more remains to be done.

To the want of care is attributable the numer-

ous fires, which occur at Constantinople and its suburbs, and the extent of their destruction is in some degree owing to the streets being so narrow, that, as the houses are built mostly of timber, when one is on fire, those on the opposite side of the street are sure to ignite, yet they continue to build as closely together as ever. The *grand* cause of fire so often happening, is on account of their dwellings being composed rarely of any other ingredient than wood. A house of stone is considered to be a great acquisition, and a valuable property. When fire occurs in the night, men are sent about in all quarters, striking the pavement with a stick tipped with iron, and crying out, "Ran gin var," and I have often been awakened by this cry; but as it was generally terminated by Stamboul, I knew I had not any inconvenience personally to apprehend from it. The difficulty of obtaining a supply of water is frequently the cause of the fire spreading to an immense extent; and even when it is procured, the awkward manner in which they avail themselves of it, renders it comparatively but a feeble specific.

CHAPTER XV.

THE BOSPHORUS—ITS EXTRAORDINARY CHARMS—NATURAL AND ARTIFICIAL—ITS NUMEROUS GARDENS—ITS ORNAMENTAL TURKISH EDIFICES—INTERESTING GROUPS OF FIGURES—TURKISH BOATMEN—CANDILLY—PLAGUE AT YANIQUIEE—THERAPIA—BUYUKDERE—DUMB ELOQUENCE—A FAMOUS CHARON—THE AUTHOR BECOMES TRANSFERABLE PROPERTY—TOPHONA—ASSAULTS OF THE DOGS—THEIR ANTIPATHY TO THE FRANKS—THEIR APPEARANCE AND HABITS—SCUTARI—BARRACKS—A SPIRITED LADY—BREACH OF DECORUM—PROPERLY PUNISHED—THE LADY'S CLEMENCY—ST. DEMETRI—THE ARSENAL—THE BAGNIO—ITS HORRORS—FANAR—EYOOP ITS NUMEROUS PICTURESQUE OBJECTS, SO ADAPTED FOR SKETCHING — ASIATIC SHORES — DANCING GIRLS — MR. CHURCHILL—INFAMOUS TREATMENT HE RECEIVED—ENERGETIC REMONSTRANCE OF THE AMBASSADORS—INJUSTICE OF TURKISH LAWS, AND SHAMEFULLY ADMINISTERED.

How seldom is it in our course through life, that we find a scene equal our expectations, when we have been accustomed to hear it described in the most glowing colours, by different travellers, and to read accounts of it, as traced by authors,

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wherein the powers of language have been strained to the utmost to pourtray its beauties.

Few spots in Europe have called forth more panegyrics on its picturesque charms than the Bosphorus; yet, in this instance, I can truly declare, that I found the reality far surpassing any description I have yet met with. As you sit in your boat, the very consciousness that you are placed between those two most imposing quarters of the world, Europe and Asia, produces in the mind a train of reflections which appear boundless.

On one side you have that portion of the world, which, however comparatively small, has, by its acmé of civilisation, given laws to the rest of the globe: on your other side, you have that quarter of the earth, so wondrous from the immensity of its extent and its incalculable population. It would appear almost as if the opposite shores vied with each other, which should teem the most with every beauty which art and nature could exhibit.

About half-way between the two coasts rises the light and elegant tower of Leander, but why so called, I know not;—but I shall not attempt to describe the different objects which adorn the shores of the Bosphorus in detail, but shall endea-

vour to give the reader some idea of them in mass, and so it is that they are seen to the greatest advantage. Many of the edifices, the gardens, the walks, &c., which, viewed in succession, might *please* the stranger; but, when all are at once presented to his view, the effect is *enchanting*. You have palaces of the purest white marble, with their doors of bronze and gilded cornices, the tall slender minaret, rising with all its chaste and taper elegance beside the round and massive dome, their light trellises, their shaded terraces, and their latticed windows, all savour of mystery and romance; and then the heavy castles of other times, with their gloomy turrets frowning at each other from the opposite banks as they peer in solemn grandeur above their more feeble neighbours, whose fantastic and ephemeral style of architecture gives a more weighty effect to the solid walls and lofty towers which raise their proud heads high in air, appearing to command and threaten the flimsy edifices which surround them.

The shores of the Bosphorus present every variety of structure suited to every grade of life, from the lowest peasant even to the proudest and most despotic monarch. Thus you have the

poorest fisherman's shed, formed of a few planks, patched up and plastered together with mud and clay, with a hole to creep in and a hole to look out from, the waves oft dashing against its base, and the rain entering its roof, whilst not far distant stands the Sultan's gorgeous palace, where the sculptor's art is profusely displayed, where gaudy painting and the richest carved work unite their powers to adorn the splendid monument of Ottoman pride, and its polished marble walls, its granite balustrades, its porphyry columns, are crowned by a resplendent crescent of gold. All this may outrage the pure and classic eye of the chaste architect; we know it is in bad taste, yet is the effect most brilliant and imposing; and, as there is a succession of these palaces on either shore, when the sun shines upon them it produces one dazzling blaze of Eastern magnificence.

But it is not art alone that has lent her aid to embellish this enchanting spot. Far more to nature is it indebted for its sublimest charms, it is she who has furnished its bold and varied outline, its rocky mazes, and its myrtle bowers; from her bed springs the gigantic and overshadowing plane tree, the growth of centuries, and the shelter to

thousands of men, and of herds; the rugged oak, the spreading elm, the weeping ash, the bright sycamore, the dark green fig, the stately cedar, the orange, the lemon, the soft acacia, the trembling aspen, the drooping willow, the sable yew, the tall poplar, and, the loftiest of all, leaving every other far beneath, the sombre cypress rears its aspiring stem. Yet still higher than these at times, the bare rock appears, its summit often clad by the hardy pine.

Amongst the above variety of trees which I have named, there are many others too numerous to particularize, with fruit trees of every description. The mulberry and vine are most frequent; the latter climbing about their awnings and pallisadoes, in all directions. The number of different shrubs is almost incalculable; the laurel, the myrtle, the box, the arbutus, and the laurustinus, appeared extremely prevalent; and as to the immense variety of flowers, it baffles all calculation.

The various palaces, harems, and mansions of the wealthy natives and foreign merchants with which the shores are studded on each side, are backed by high grounds, which sometimes rise to

an immense altitude; and not only are these princely residences *surrounded* by their gardens, but they rise all the way up the heights, getting wilder as they approach the summit, till they reach the barren crag, where none but the hardiest northern firs will grow. These gardens are, therefore, seen far above the dwellings, one above the other, communicating by winding steps, which are often of marble, and have a most beautiful appearance, here and there peeping amongst the beds of flowers and dark green shrubs. Amongst these delicious retreats are seen arbours, bowers, alcoves, obelisks, pagodas, kiosks, fountains, temples, awnings, latticed-worked screens, and trellisses of every diversified form that the imagination could invent, ever and anon peering over the variegated foliage, with which they are environed.

Sometimes the gaiety of the scene is interrupted by the blue cupolas of some stately mosque, which half appears from beneath the umbrageous curtain which spreads its green mantle around it, whilst its tall fluted minarets rise majestically amongst the dark trees, and from which is heard the solemn call of "Allah hu!" as sung forth by a man who stands

in a little gallery, and, by that well-known appeal, invites the faithful to prayers.

It is not the inanimate objects alone which create the highest interest to the traveller, who is rowed along the Bosphorus; from many a window is gazing at you the dark eyes of a Greek girl, who, in a sort of coquettish attire, with a half languid air, watches the hundreds of boats as they pass, whilst her penetrating glance has soon scanned the external merits of each passenger. Often the floating veil is seen playing in the breeze amongst the embowered walks; but if she who wears it be Turkish or Armenian, one transient look alone is given and afforded, as her averted eyes seek an object, on which she is taught that modesty forbids her not to dwell. Groups of Turks sit smoking in the coffee-houses which hang over the water, dressed in all the vagaries of costume, of which the many and distant provinces of their empire admit. Richly carved and gilded boats are constantly passing with some pacha, or high dignitary, with their suite, decorated in all the gay attire which the brightest colours and the richness of embroidery, fraught with every sparkling hue which gold and silver, can display.

The boatmen are by no means undeserving of notice: they wear a small tight red cap on the head, and a white silk shirt, with very full sleeves, with a crimson sash round the waist; but the silk is not glossy, and so thin and transparent, that the colour of the flesh is seen through, if the person be dark; but when there are three or four rowers, they have a very picturesque effect.

A constant succession of villages skirt the banks of the Bosphorus on each side; and some of them are so inviting in appearance, that one feels constantly induced to desire the boatmen to land, in order that one might explore such delightful scenes. Two of them I was tempted to visit, one on the Asiatic coast, the other on the European; the first was called Candilly. I went to the house of a French merchant, who had his country residence there, situated on an eminence much above the most populous part of the village. The view from his dwelling was quite magnificent, commanding in front the Black Sea, with that part of the Bosphorus leading to it, comprising all the adjacent villages, terminating with those of Therapia and Bujukdere; whilst from the back windows we beheld Constantinople, with all its towers,

minarets, domes, &c., Pera, and Tophona; and on the shores of Asia, Scutari, Cadiquie, and, still beyond, the sea of Marmora.

The other village I visited was Yanaquie: I went there to see Constantin, the physician, and had an extreme difficulty in finding out his house, which he considered as his country seat, although it was in a street, and surrounded by houses; I had asked almost every one I met, as soon as I had landed, but could not make myself understood, had begun by French, then Italian, and the little I could muster of Greek, but all in vain, when a person in the Armenian costume came up to me, and asked me if I spoke English; and on my replying in the affirmative, he conducted me to Constantin's house. Who would have expected, in an obscure village, in so remote a spot, to have met with any one who could speak English? He informed me he had been in London formerly as an interpreter.

Yanaquie is a very large village, almost approaching to a town, consequently, not very rural. It has, however, some very picturesque bits; but all had a very melancholy air when I was there, on account of the plague having carried off many

persons; and many more were then lying ill of the same complaint, which appeared to have a considerable influence on the village and its inhabitants. The houses were many of them shut up, and the people generally looked sad. At the extremity of the Bosphorus, nearest to the Black Sea, are the villages called Therapia and Bujukdere, where most of the European ambassadors reside, since the residences allotted to them were burnt down at Pera. The water is remarkably rough always between the two villages; I never passed over that spot, without getting wet from the waves entering the boat, and in one part they bubble up just like water boiling in a kettle; it is a peculiar force in the current which produces that effect.

Between Therapia and Bujukdere is an immense plane-tree, that covers a wide extent of ground; under which it is pretended, that Godefroy de Bouillon encamped with his army during the Crusades. On account of the tremendous influx of the Euxine into the Bosphorus, by an extremely narrow channel, the power of the current is such, that although the distance from Constantinople is not above fourteen or fifteen miles, yet they

always require four or five hours to row there; and then, in some places, keep close to the shore, where men are stationed to pull the boats on with cords, whereas to return, they accomplish the same distance in less than two hours.

The boatmen are a very fine race of men, and generally very civil, but I always had one quarrel with them; they would insist upon my sitting in the bottom of the boat, instead of on the seats, as they pretend that they can get on so much better, and that any weight in the bottom steadies the boat; all which might be very true, but sitting so low prevented my seeing much that was interesting of the prospect. After a great deal of dumb show arguments on both sides, I made signs to them, that if I sat where they wished me, I should be sick; the gesticulations I was compelled to make, in order to explain, amused my Turk boatmen to such a degree, that they laughed heartily for several miles, and I gained my point by keeping my seat. But in one of my excursions to Bujukdere, I was particularly unlucky. I started from Constantinople at an early hour, with my friend M. Baudony, a French merchant, in a boat of good reputation. Having two rowers of equal cele-

brity, we arrived at our destination in good time, I breakfasting with Mr. Sarell, an English merchant, who has a country house at Therapia, M. Baudony also visiting a friend; and on his rejoining me, we proceeded to Bujukdere, where we again separated, each intending to call on our respective acquaintances, agreeing to meet at a house which we both sometimes frequented: but by some error of the servants, when he called for me, he was told that I had quitted Bujukdere; accordingly, he departed without me. I, in the mean time, not finding him at the place of rendezvous, sought him at several houses where I knew he would call, and at one I had the mortification to have him pointed out about two miles off, skimming the Bosphorus at a most rapid rate; nor could I have distinguished him, but for the aid of a glass.

Having an engagement, which compelled me to be at Constantinople the same night, I flew, to the water's side endeavouring to engage a boat but could not find one, all having already returned to the capital. At last, when I was quite in despair, a man offered to take me in his boat, but I was obliged to be contented with but one rower, and as the distance was about twelve or thirteen

miles, and night approaching, the probable slowness of our progress did not present a very agreeable prospect. However my Charon pulled away most marvellously, every now and then looking at me with a smile, and a little nod of the head, which could not be misunderstood, so evidently saying, "Don't I get on famously?" and to which I always responded by nodding an affirmative.

But whilst I was congratulating myself upon our swift career, a boat with a single rower drew up close to mine; and the boatman entered into a parley, in which I could perceive that I was frequently alluded to. If they had been Greek, some ideas might have crossed my mind, that they probably intended to pillage me of my cash, clothes, &c., and then make me a present to the fishes; but as they were Turks, no such thought ever entered my brain.

At length they made signs to me to get into the other boat, which apparently had come from Constantinople. I at first refused, as I did not relish the idea of being transferred, in the middle of the Bosphorus, from one boat to the other, without any rhime or reason that I could perceive: but as they pressed it with much good

humour, I acceded. To step into one of their boats always requires much caution to prevent capsizing them, but to step from one to the other without upsetting either is no easy task, as you must only step from the middle of one boat into the middle of the other. This I effected; but the boats separating left me like the Colossus of Rhodes for some time, striding at my full stretch, expecting every instant between the two boats to plump into the water, in which case, being no swimmer, the reader would have lost all the advantages that might be derived from a perusal of these pages. However fate ordained otherwise; the boatmen at last contrived to bring the boats close together, and by a spring I effected the desired object, whilst they with much skill contrived to throw in the weight of their bodies, so as to counterbalance the jerk I was compelled to give in disengaging myself from the first boat.

I was no sooner seated in the second than they made signs to me, that I must pay half the money to the first man I had engaged, and the other at my arrival at Tophona, the suburb of Constantinople, where I was to be landed. All this was

almost as well expressed, as if we could have had the benefit of language. This arrangement completed, I began to reflect on my landing at Tophona, with no very agreeable anticipations. It is the part of Constantinople the least civilised of any, and the most infested with dogs, who always beset every one in the Frank dress with unmeasured fury; and, as ill luck would have it, I had neglected my usual precaution of always carrying a whip, I was therefore quite unprepared for the reception of my canine enemies.

My expectations did not deceive me. No sooner had I set my foot on terra firma, than one hungry looking dog set up a sort of howling bark at me, which brought a whole army of them; and I suppose I should not have had a rag of clothes left upon me, had it not been for some Turks, who very good-naturedly either called or beat them off. As it was dark, I had the dread of being arrested by the guard and confined all night with the thieves and beggars, for being without a lantern.

Every traveller who has visited Constantinople, and has written upon the subject, has devoted some pages to the dogs; and certainly their numbers

are such, that they may justly be considered as a public body, and I feel that I should be doing them an injustice, if I did not pay them the same tribute of respect as my brother tourists, and it cannot be more apropos than when the subject relates to Tophona, that suburb of Constantinople being the only spot where they continue to be formidable. I have been assured that some years since they were so ferocious, that even the lives of persons have been endangered by them, particularly those of Europeans, whose costumes the dogs were not accustomed to, and would always fly at them; but since the destruction of the Janissaries the spirits of their curs have been broken. When that fierce and lawless force existed they each kept their dog, and many, more than one; they fed them well, and taught them to bark at the Franks, and to assail them in every possible manner, until the dogs had a habit of attacking every one that did not wear an eastern costume. But now that their masters no longer exist, there are thousands without owners, and having no food except such as they can find from the refuse which is thrown out at the doors occasionally, the carcase of a horse, and very often

dead cats, thus they are of considerable service as being the principal scavengers of Constantinople.

One author pretends that there is a sort of convention between the dogs, by which they divide the city into districts, and that if one attempts to intrude in any district that is not his own, all the dogs that are in their legitimate quarters fly at the stranger, and tear him to pieces. In support of this statement, it is asserted that means have been tried to coax a hungry dog, by offers of food, beyond his line of demarcation, and that every attempt has proved ineffectual.

Whatever may have been the ferocity of the dogs formerly, the time I was at Constantinople I always found that with a stick or a whip, they were easily kept at bay. Thus much for the canine inhabitants of the Ottoman capital; and yet, I suppose, I must not entirely quit the subject without giving their personal description. They are of a foxy colour, with heads something like wolves, and always have a lean and hungry look. They breed, and bring up their young, without having home or shelter, except such as they can find amongst the ruins or half finished buildings, and

they are mostly to be found prowling about the cemeteries, which has given the idea that they watch the burials, and unite together in scratching away the earth, and disinterring the dead where they have been buried in a slovenly manner. But I found on enquiry that there was not the slightest foundation for such a supposition: in fact there is no nation in Europe which is more scrupulous than the Turks in paying every respect to the deceased.

Opposite to Tophona, on the Asiatic shore, stands Scutari, which is also considered a suburb of Constantinople, though completely a town of itself, and of considerable extent. Its cemetery is remarkably fine, and its barracks are on a grand scale; indeed I have seldom in any country found finer barracks than there are in Turkey. It rarely happens that any Europeans reside at Scutari; but Dr. Millingen, having much practice as a physician amongst the Turks, had a house there, and him I went to see: his name is already known to the public as having been one of the medical attendants upon Lord Byron, in his last illness when at Missolonghi.

I found Mrs. Millingen's mind still much occu-

pied with a circumstance which had occurred a few days before, and of which she gave me the following particulars:—According to the custom of the country, she went to bathe at a secluded spot appropriated for that purpose, taking with her a female and a male servant; the latter being employed in warning persons not to approach within a prescribed distance, until the lady had finished bathing and re-entered her araba (a sort of Turkish carriage); but four young Turkish officers, wholly disregarding the admonitions and entreaties of the servant, invaded the pale which decorum had established, adding ill-placed mirth and impertinence to the contempt which they had shewn to such injunctions as they had received, and which were usual under similar circumstances.

Mrs. Millingen hurried into her carriage, and drove to the nearest corps de garde, ordering her servant not to lose sight of the offenders. She spoke Turkish fluently, being a Constantinopolitan (though of French descent), and made her representations so energetically to the commanding officer, that he immediately accompanied her with some soldiers to the coffee-house to which the delinquents had been traced.

When the indignant lady first entered, accompanied by an official personage, the landlord of the café positively denied that the culprits were then in his house, pretending that they had quitted by the back way; but, on being threatened with the bastinado, he opened a door, which displayed a large party at a repast, amongst whom were the four identical young men who had so outraged good breeding, and who were recounting to those around them the details of what they considered their amusing adventure; but the finale proved not quite so amusing as the commencement.

When they perceived Mrs. Millingen, with an officer vested with authority to adjudge their conduct, and inflict punishment if their behaviour should be deemed such as to merit chastisement, the countenance of the young sparks immediately changed. The lady made her charge, and the dispenser of justice decreed that the offenders should receive the bastinado forthwith.

A fine-looking old man, who proved to be the father of the youths, threw himself at the feet of Mrs. M., and, weeping bitterly, implored her to pardon his sons, and save them from undergoing so humiliating a disgrace; but the lady was in-

flexible, and it was left to her decision as to the number of stripes each should receive, in which she displayed much moderation. When three of these sons of Mars had endured their allotted castigation, the fourth, who was remarkably handsome, presuming on the beauty of his person, throwing all the fascination he could command into his countenance and manner, besought her to accept his excuses, hoping that, in his case, she would remit the punishment; but such was the perverseness of the lady, that she, on the contrary, ordered him an additional number of stripes, he having been the most impudent of them all: therefore, his comely face and his fine figure were not able to rescue the soles of his feet from the scourge of summary justice.

Mrs. Millingen was present during the operation of inflicting the corporeal punishment, but, by her entreaties, obtained a remission of that part of the sentence which condemned them to imprisonment for a certain period of time; which indulgence, she declared to them, she merely solicited for their father's sake, who appeared so much affected at their misconduct.

But the most remarkable feature in the whole

affair occurred afterwards. At some public fête, or review, I do not exactly remember which, Mrs. Millingen was amongst the spectators, and a large basket of the finest fruit was placed before her; and on demanding from whence it came, two of the young men were pointed out whose punishment she had procured, and who were on duty in a distant part of the field. At another time, a quantity of fruit was brought to her house, from the same parties; she could only conceive that these presents were the effects of their gratitude for her having prevented their being sent to prison. But this anecdote proves, that where the Turks consider a Frank has been grossly insulted, they are ready to render justice, by immediately inflicting chastisement, even upon their own people.

Some of the streets of Scutari are wide and look well, having many good houses in the Turkish style. Crossing the water to the European side, we land again at Tophona, and climb up to Pera, and, passing through it, arrive at St. Demetri, another of the numerous suburbs of Constantinople, mostly inhabited by poor Greeks, and principally celebrated for not having one attraction, being a quarter rather famous for plague and other

diseases, as also for having rather a bad reputation as to the character of its inmates. From this place we descend to the water, and arrive at the Arsenal, which is a most extensive establishment, and in which an immense number of persons are employed. Amongst the superintendents there are many different nations, several English, Americans, French, &c.

It would take many pages to give a detailed account of the various articles which are manufactured in this place, which is, in itself, a complete town. I went through the different warehouses, workshops, and departments; and any one who is fond of a horrid noise, and an intolerable heat, may find much gratification in exploring this busy labyrinth, some parts of which reminded me of Vulcan's Forge, with the din that was ringing around me, and the scorching heat that seemed to impregnate the very air. Steam engines and English engineers have found their way here, as well as to most other parts of the world.

I quitted this active and bustling scene for one that made the most indelible impression on my mind, which was the Bagnio, or great prison, so admirably described by Anastasius. Never could

I have supposed that human endurance could have borne that which many of the poor wretches appeared to suffer in that most hateful hole.

Imagine human beings of a pale greenish yellow colour, then conceive a skeleton with a skin the thickness of parchment, stretched over it, the bones being as visible as if there was no covering drawn over them. The total listlessness of expression, as I regarded them, struck me most forcibly whilst standing and contemplating what man could be brought to, by a privation of every nourishment, save that which was just requisite to keep bone and skin hanging together. The wretched victims, for one instant, cast their dying-looking eyes upon me, then let them fall on their tedious work, scarcely appearing to notice what passed before them. They were picking pieces of rope, or something of that sort, which was the labour assigned them. Their countenances had but one expression,—a settled sadness, a feeble despair, which left not sufficient energy to move the head from its fixed sunken position, which remained unmoved, even though the eye was, perchance, uplifted.

From their extreme thinness, the cheek-bone

was remarkably prominent, and the cavity which contained the eyes deeper than I ever before saw in any human being. They had no clothing, except such as decency demanded; to the waist they were generally naked, and the scorching sun's rays were shining on their bare shoulders, when men, who had clothes to repel the intensity of the heat, were carrying umbrellas in the streets; what, then, must have been the endurance of these pitiable objects? I found, on enquiry, that they were mostly Kurds, or natives of Kourdisthan, a district that has always been rebelling against the Turkish government; and the poor wretches, doomed to drag on a living death in the Bagnio, were peasants who were compelled to follow their chiefs to the field, when they have rebelled against the Porte, and having been taken prisoners, they know not whether their incarceration be for life, or for what period. Sometimes a number of them are taken out at night and thrown into the Bosphorus: and these poor fellows, who come from a far distant country, even when set at liberty, have no means of returning to their homes; therefore death in battle would be comparative happiness to that of being made a prisoner. I suppose they

are not permitted openly to beg of visitors, as many made silent signs to me for money, but had the appearance of doing it in a concealed manner.

At length I gladly quitted the abode of misery, but the gloomy impression which it had wrought upon my mind long hung over me. I know no sensation more painful than that of having seen so many fellow creatures enduring such an excess of wretchedness, and even pain, with the constant pangs of hunger, and yet not to have it in one's power to afford them the slightest alleviation.

Facing the Bagnio, on the opposite side of the water, is the suburb of Fanar, so long famed for the residence of the wealthy and talented Greeks. It consists of the most forlorn, gloomy-looking, lumbering set of houses, that I ever saw congregated together. They are all wooden, and appear as if they had never been painted since they have been built: but a rough exterior often contains a polished interior, and so it is at Fanar; you enter their ugly houses, and find rooms most elegantly furnished. This is a part of the old manœuvring plan of endeavouring to conceal their wealth, and, at the time they were Rayahs (that is, subjects of the Porte, who were not Mahomedans),

was a necessary policy; but now that the Greeks have become an independent people; this system of hypocrisy is no longer requisite: but it will yet be many years before those who still live in Turkey can persuade themselves that they are as free as other Europeans, and that any further restraint upon their actions can only emanate from their own ambassador or consuls. The sooner they can arrive at this feeling the better subjects they will become. As dissimulation being no longer useful to them, they will naturally imbibe a more broad and open mode of thinking, and, it is to be hoped, of dealing.

But we will now quit the low unhealthy precincts of Fanar, and proceed to Eyoop, in my opinion, by far the most interesting suburb of Constantinople; at any rate it must be so to every artist. I have seldom been anywhere, perhaps never, where I have seen so many beautiful buildings on the same space, where, in fact, such numbers of interesting objects may be seen at one view; many of them are half mouldered into decay, and partly covered with ivy and other creeping plants, the most splendid trees rise amongst them, and a wilderness of shrubs and herbs grow

uninterruptedly around the venerable piles, which time may have injured, in regard of solidity, but has improved with respect to picturesque effect.

There is the most extraordinary variety of buildings, and, in fact, such as I find very difficult to describe, and have never met with any author amongst the multitude who have written on Constantinople, who has ever noticed this interesting suburb, except in the briefest manner. The mosques with their minarets form the most conspicuous objects, and a building, which I have understood to have been an imperial palace; some of these edifices are in a perfect state of preservation, several, in fact, quite modern, and a few there are now in progress, as there were some erections at which an immense number of men were employed, which promise to be amongst the richest specimens of the present Turkish style of architecture.

Many of the old walls, with their curious buttresses, half covered with mosses, as various in colour as in sorts, are extremely picturesque, as also some openwork, screens of stone, of most elaborate workmanship, in which the fleur-de-lys was particularly conspicuous, some old Byzantine chapels,

of a peculiar sort of Roman brick, others, of Ottoman construction, were mixed amongst the stately mausoleums, gothic porches and gateways, which led to cemeteries, where the most delicate sort of iron filagree net-work, partly gilded, formed a kind of cage to several of the choicest monuments. Turrets, court-yards, obelisks, and vaulted archways, also added to the extraordinary variety of objects, so fitted to the artist's pencil. The curious fountains alone, so endless in the different styles of architecture, of tastes so singular and grotesque, are sufficiently attractive to induce the stranger to stroll as far as Eyoop, and the number of picturesque green lanes and pleasant roads, cheered by the tinkling of the camels' bells, with groups of figures, some on horse, others on foot, with the arriving and departing of the caravans, will altogether give as interesting an Eastern picture as the traveller can desire.

A landscape painter, named Wolfenburger, who lived in the same house with me, had made many beautiful drawings from this remarkable spot; but observed to me, that he could go there every day, and sketch from morning to night for six months,

and yet not take half the subjects which that picturesque suburb presented.

Not very far from this place is a spot visited by all, whether natives or foreigners, called "Les eaux douces" (the sweet waters); its very picturesque situation is well worthy the attention of the visitors, who by proceeding in the same direction, but instead of landing at Eyoop, will arrive at this fashionable resort, by following the water for a considerable distance; and the way to it ever offers some object which must interest the stranger.

On the Asiatic shore is a village, called Cadiquiee, where many of the merchants of Constantinople have their country residences. I visited it several times, and passed a day there most agreeably at the house of the editor of the *Moniteur Ottoman*, M. Blaque, and had an opportunity of seeing his son, my little Cicerone, and introducer to the Prince de Samos, display his extreme address in equestrian exercises, in racing with his younger brother, on two most spirited little chargers. An English gentleman, who was there, found some fault with their riding, and mounted one of the horses to give them a lesson, but was

soon thrown to the ground, to the great amusement of all present.

In the evening we proceeded in boats, to a much frequented spot on the coast, called Fanaracki, where a sort of merry-making was going forward. Many arabas were standing in a semicircle, in which were seated the sister of the Sultan, and several ladies of the harem; the former as ugly as any woman could desire, who wished to repel the lords of the creation, but the latter, though as usual veiled up to the nose, it was easy to perceive were very young, very delicate, and very pretty.

Three little girls were dancing before them, and their costume was most singular, being exactly that of an English dandy, having on frock coats buttoned very tight at the waist, and white trousers; one of them was pretty: they wore their hair rather long and in curls, which hung quite over the eyes. They went through a great variety of figures, but which, at last, I began to think very tiresome. A band of Wallachs (natives of Wallachia,) played on violins, a mandoline, pandean pipes, and queer sort of guitar. The dancers, when they reposed, approached the Sultan's sister,

who caressed them more with the air, as if they were her own children, than professional figurantes, which was the case.

At Cadiquiee, I also sometimes visited Mr. Churchill, whose country-house stood by the water's side; and as this gentleman's name has been latterly so much before the public, in consequence of the infamous treatment he received, and the circumstances may not be known to many of my readers, I shall here briefly state them.

Whilst out shooting, not far from his own house, Mr. Churchill had the misfortune to wound a Turkish boy very slightly; but his cries immediately attracting some passers by, they flew to the spot, and instantly began treating Mr. Churchill in the roughest manner; one young Turk in particular struck him many severe blows with his fist. Thus assailed by a brutal mob, Mr. C., who spoke the Turkish language with extreme fluency, called for the guard, naturally presuming, that from any constituted authority, he would stand a better chance of obtaining a hearing and of meeting with justice.

The guard at length arrived, and the officer listened to the statement on both sides, and then

made his soldiers throw Mr. Churchill to the ground and hold him down, whilst he was bastinadoed. This severe chastisement inflicted, the wounded boy was placed on an ass, and the whole party proceeded to a magistrate's, where an exaggerated statement was made of the injuries the boy had received, and the manner in which they had taken place. The scourging Mr. Churchill had suffered was approved, and he was ordered to the Bagnio.

In vain he solicited permission to inform his friends; the guard would not afford him the opportunity, but hurried him off. Fortunately for him in passing along, he prevailed on the escort to allow him to enter the shop of a Jew, where on a scrap of paper, he just contrived to apprise his family of what had happened. He was placed in the Bagnio, and there wrote a detailed account of what had occurred, and from thence forwarded it to the ambassador, who in that instance shewed much energy in demanding that the most complete satisfaction should be given to Mr. Churchill, for the wrongs he had received.

He was instantly liberated, on so powerful an appeal; and all the Frank merchants of Constan-

tinople sent in their remonstrances to the government, declaring they would all immediately throw up their establishments and quit the place, unless all the authors of the injuries which Mr. Churchill had endured, and the authorities approving of them, were brought to punishment; also demanding that he should receive a compensation commensurate to the insults to which he had been compelled to submit. The foreign ambassadors likewise united with the English, in demanding satisfaction of the Porte: in short, every Frank appeared to make the cause his own.

What renders the circumstance still more remarkable is, that Mr. Churchill was himself, some years since, accidentally shot by a Turkish youth in the face, and that in so serious a manner, as considerably to disfigure him for a length of time; but such was his good feeling and kindness under the misfortune, that he not only took immediate measures to prevent the young man (who shewed much contrition) from being punished, but also sent him 150 piastres, aware that he was much frightened and dejected at what had occurred. Through the intervention of Mr. Churchill, the youth was saved from that chastisement which

would have been summarily inflicted, had not the most prompt exertions been made in his favour. How powerful was the contrast of Mr. Churchill's behaviour to the young Turk, and that which he had received from the Ottoman authorities, for an accident which took place exactly under similar circumstances.

As the affair has only been recently terminated, I am not aware of the precise nature of the compensation Mr. Churchill has received, but most of the papers have stated a sum of money equal to five thousand pounds sterling, besides a firman, authorizing him to purchase the produce of some district which yields a profit, sometimes even exceeding the sum of money awarded him, but varying so entirely from circumstances, that the result alone can be calculated.

I cannot conclude this anecdote, without paying that tribute to Mr. Churchill's amiable qualities, to which I am sure every one who has had the pleasure of his acquaintance will most willingly subscribe. It is rarely that one meets with a milder and better hearted man, whilst his talents and information are such, as render his society ever an acquisition; for my own part, I never differed

with him but on one point, and that was regarding the Turkish government, which he was always defending, and I ever condemning. As however worthy I consider the Turks naturally are as individuals, yet almost every thing that appertains to the administration of the laws, and their summary manner of inflicting punishment, with the total want of protection given to property, render it, in my opinion, a government which every philanthropist must wish to see dissolved; and I suspect, after the experience Mr. Churchill has lately had, that he will now enter more into my ideas on the subject; and if ever they fall under the dominion of any European power, the poor inhabitants will feel the benefit, though the pachas, the ulemas, the mollahs, &c. &c., might suffer from the change, as they would not then have the same opportunities of oppressing all the classes beneath them, which they now have; yet the cultivator might then be able to say of what is left, after having paid the regular imposts, "This is mine;" which under Turkish laws, he can never say.

CHAPTER XVI.

INHABITANTS AND SOCIETY OF PERA—LAUNCH OF A FRIGATE—AWKWARD MISTAKE—SCOURGES OF CONSTANTINOPLE—ARROGANCE OF THE INTERPRETERS—A CONCEITED YOUTH—BOLD STROKE FOR A WIFE—FEMALE ADVISER—DECEIVED BY HIS CONFIDANT—RETREATS IN DISGRACE—ANTI-SOCIALITY AT CONSTANTINOPLE — LIABILITY TO BE CONFINED IN THE GUARD-HOUSE—THE AUTHOR'S NARROW ESCAPE—TURKISH AUTHORITIES AND CAPTAINS BASTINADOED—SIMILAR JUSTICE IN EGYPT—MODE OF TRANSACTING BUSINESS AT CONSTANTINOPLE—AN ENGLISHMAN'S AGRICULTURAL SPECULATION—ADVANTAGES FOR FOREIGN SETTLERS—STREETS OF PERA UGLY AND DISAGREEABLE—CHANCES OF LOSING YOUR LIFE—PRICES OF PROVISIONS—HOTELS AND BOARDING-HOUSES—DISTANCE OF THE BRITISH EMBASSY—SOME OF ITS INMATES—DANCING—DERVISHES—MUSTAPHA—THE ENGLISH TOURIST'S ORACLE—ATTRACTIONS OF PERA—VAPID CONVERSATIONS—AUTHENTIC SOURCES OF INFORMATION—FREEDOM OF THE FRANK LADIES.

PERA, it is generally well known, is inhabited principally by Franks, and is an odd mixture of many nations; and if you see a group of persons before you, it were hard to say which of nine or ten languages they might be speaking, perhaps Turkish, or Greek, or Arabic, or Armenian, or

Italian, or French, or Russian, or English, or German, or Spanish. The latter tongue is spoken by the Jews; not the best Castilian, certainly, being but an uncouth jargon, retaining just enough of its nervous force to say that it is Spanish.

The family with whom I boarded was German; very worthy people, but with them were associated two mighty sins in the eyes of the inhabitants of Pera,—they were poor, and well educated. The latter crime might be pardoned, but, united with the former, it was too enormous to be forgiven. Those who were rich saw a superior point to themselves, in those who were needy, and consequently, slighted.

The majority of persons composing the society of Pera were merchants and their families; and amongst these there existed a considerable disunion, which was, in a great degree, national. There being an English coterie and a French, who seldom met except on public occasions, such as the balls of the ambassadors; and the latter having been burnt out of Pera, few opportunities occur of bringing together the families of the different countries which have so long occupied this quarter of Constantinople.

However, at certain intervals, the ministers of the various nations were in the habit of inviting many persons concerned with commerce, yet there never was what might be termed a social intercourse between them; the merchants and their families went to the fêtes at the embassies, and were politely received, but there the communication generally ended. Of this I had a singular and striking proof.

An immense frigate was launched soon after my arrival at Constantinople; and the major part of the inhabitants of Pera proceeded to the spot where the ceremony was to take place. I joined a party of merchants and their wives with whom I was acquainted; and having received our tickets from the builder, Mr. Rhodes, an American, we proceeded, accompanied by Commodore Porter (the American ambassador), on board a steam vessel, which had been arranged, as we imagined, for our accommodation.

The ladies took possession of all the chairs which had been placed there for their convenience; but had not long occupied them, before a boat arrived with M. Boutinief, the Russian ambassador with the ambassadress, and the Austrian internuncio and his lady, with many persons in their

suites; but no recognition whatever took place between the newly arrived ladies and those already in occupation; and I was afterwards informed that we had gone on board the wrong steamer, the one which we had entered having been arranged expressly for the diplomatists, who, of course, had every reason to look queer at those already in possession.

I expressed my surprise afterwards to one of the merchants' ladies, that they should not have saluted the ministers' ladies, as I knew that she had been always accustomed to attend their balls, as well as the other ladies of our party. The reply was, that although it was true that they did attend the public soirées at the ambassadors', yet it was not always very agreeable, as some of their wives were apt to behave with much *hauteur;* consequently, that there was no recognition between them when they met elsewhere.

There is one class attached to the embassies which is universally detested, consisting of the dragomans, who form a sort of despotic aristocracy, and endeavour to rule all parties. It has been observed that there are five curses in Constantinople, the plague, the fires, the dogs, the rats,

and the dragomans, or interpreters. The first evil still reigns with all its dire force, nor is the second much subdued; the third is certainly reduced; the fourth, though bad enough, is much better than formerly; but as to the last, it continues in full power, with all its overbearing insolence.

Although in many parts of Europe an interpreter is looked on as little better than an upper servant, yet in Constantinople they regard the merchants as beneath them, and in some instances are so leagued together, as to mislead and influence the ambassadors; yet, with the exception of knowing several languages, and those sometimes very imperfectly with regard to writing them, they are proverbially a most ignorant set of men, with one or two exceptions. Pera is their world, and beyond its precincts even their ideas never travel. They are of all nations in regard of descent, but mostly born in Turkey.

One of these gentry had a quarrel with the son of one of the first English merchants, from whom he received a threat of chastisement; when this dignified interpreter complained to all his friends of the awkwardness of his situation, as it was impossible he could fight with an inferior.

Another of this hopeful corps created much amusement at Smyrna, whither he went highly flushed with the conviction of his own high importance. He was of remarkably diminutive stature, but dressed in the utmost extravagance of European dandyism, and wore a pair of brass spurs nearly as long as his legs, except when on horseback; and then he never wore any, for fear he should frighten the horse into going too fast, which would have alarmed his own weak nerves.

On his arrival at Smyrna, he became smitten with the desire of being married, and imparted his wish in confidence to a young lady, who was naturally very satirical, and who, having resided some years in London, had acquired some knowledge of the world, and with it a tact for manœuvre, which the young dragoman's imbecility afforded her an excellent opportunity of bringing into practice. She affected to enter most zealously into his plan, and offered him her advice and aid, as far as lay in her power, which he most joyfully accepted.

He then proceeded to business, by stating, that there were three young ladies, with either of whom he felt his happiness would be in good keeping. The one was decidedly handsome, and he consi-

dered her beautiful; the second was the largest fortune in Smyrna, but she was plain; the third, would have a good dowry, and then she was so clever, so highly intellectual, that he found it very difficult on which of the three to decide, but, on consideration, he thought the larger fortune would be preferable, as he had but little; and in those climates the lady might be carried off by such little varieties as plague, consumption, or any other friendly disease. Then being left a widower, he could offer himself and his wealth at the shrine of beauty.

This calculation his confidante thought marvellously bright, and that it did great credit to his penetrating acumen; and, as she was on the most intimate terms with the three young ladies, promised that her persuasive powers should be exerted to the utmost where they might be required. She then undertook the conveyance of the letters, suggesting, that, as he was going for some time into the country, he had better have the three letters ready written, that in case of refusal she might send to the others or withhold them as circumstances might require, observing, that as he

was compelled to return to Constantinople at a given time, there was no time to be lost.

This idea was perfectly approved by the youth, who in his turn complimented the young lady on the acuteness she displayed in taking so clear and complete a view of the subject. The composition of the epistles was therefore the first object, and as the young dragoman truly observed, that as his experience was not so great as that of his fair friend in epistolary correspondence, and, of course, his taste not so elegant and pure, perhaps she would assist him in that most important part of the business; to which she readily assented, and accordingly three letters were concocted, which rivalled with each other in the most extravagant protestations of ardent and unalterable love. A demur then took place as to which was the best of the three; and, at length, that in which the terms were the most outrageously passionate, was selected to be sent the first, and to the young lady who was considered the largest fortune.

Having left his affairs in so promising a train, he set off for the country, much gratified in having found so excellent a prime minister for the fur-

therance of his future scheme of felicity. But the young lady delighted in having been left in full possession of the field of action, immediately proceeded to make use of her material for supplying the voracious appetites for gossip and scandal, so exuberant in Smyrna and its environs. Accordingly she called on all her young companions, affording them a most delectable treat in the perusal of the letters.

Having exhibited them to all her circles, instead of sending them one at a time, as agreed, to the young ladies for whom they were intended, and waiting for the answer to the first, before the second was sent, she transmitted them all three at once. As the parties to whom they were addressed were all intimate friends and constant companions, they compared notes and drew up a wholesale answer, containing a refusal in no very flattering terms, which they all three signed, and sent it to the mortified youth, who became so completely the laughing-stock of all Smyrna, that he abruptly quitted it for Constantinople.

On his arrival at the capital, he related the whole tale, wishing to be the first to recount it, that he might give it the most favourable turn the

circumstances would admit; but the news had already preceded him, and he found himself as much the object of ridicule at Pera, as he had already been in that city which had been the theatre of his folly.

When the young lady, who had so artfully betrayed him, related the affair to me, she remarked with much naïveté, that it was paying her so bad a compliment to request her advice in the choice of a wife, and not to make her an offer, as, however, she would not have accepted him, young ladies are never displeased in receiving that mark of preference from any man.

Although, in this young puppy, we have an exaggerated picture of the dragomans, yet they are, generally, a class whose ignorance is only equalled by their arrogance.

To such a degree does that feeling of anti-sociality exist at Constantinople, that they have repeatedly attempted to form a casino, but in vain; nor could they ever manage to establish a theatre: therefore, the amusements at Pera are very confined. Billiards are much resorted to, in winter, by the young men, and in the summer, riding, rowing, and sailing.

Many of the families of the second class, in the fine weather, of a Sunday, pass much of their time in the air; and innumerable are the groups perched about the slopes of the Petit Champ de Mort, rendering the effect very picturesque.

The twilight is very delightful, and lasts for a considerable time: there is a clearness and calm at those hours that is peculiarly inviting; and, as night approaches, the fire-flies keep dancing like moveable stars before you. Yet, except for a few months, which are those of the latter part of the summer, and of the early part of the autumn, the climate of Constantinople is far from agreeable; the winter being detestable, and the spring little better. The seventh of April was one of the most unpleasant days I ever witnessed, having wind, snow, rain, and hail, whilst the cold had a raw bitterness in it that I seldom recollect to have experienced elsewhere.

On the 18th of May, the day on which I went to see the launch, the morning was warm and beautiful, and at noon the cold became so intense that all the ladies were indisposed for some time afterwards; and even on the 12th of June, I remember crossing the street to obtain a little sunshine.

After dark, the carrying of a lantern is most rigidly enforced; the guards go their rounds constantly, taking up and confining in the corps de garde every one they meet, who has not the required appendage. The lanterns generally carried by those who have not servants to dangle them before them, are made of paper, and are so constructed that they will lie so flat as easily to be carried in the crown of the hat, which is a convenience when going by daylight to dine at a house, and having to quit it by night. Neglect of carrying a light has caused most of the young men whom I knew to pass a whole night in the guard-house with the felons and all the disgusting characters of the place.

One splendid evening, I had long lingered in the Petit Champ de Mort, had seated myself on one of the eminences, had seen the sun set and beheld the moon rise. I was unusually lost in contemplating what was before me, and in reflecting on the extreme uncertainty of all sublunary things, until I was completely sunk into a reverie. How long I might have remained in it I cannot say, had I not been roused by the heavy tread of military, which I instantly recognized

to be the guard. Having no lantern, I knew what must be my fate, if I fell into their clutches; I, therefore, ran down the slope in which I was sitting, which was not quite so perpendicular as the side of a house, though very little short; but it served my purpose, for the Turks, not disposed to follow me, went round to a more reasonable descent, which occasioned them some loss of time, and of which I did not fail to profit; taking a parcel of little alleys, not wider than would just admit myself, by a short cut, got home by the back way, and seating myself very coolly at my front windows, saw them groping after me with their lanterns, at the same time that I could hear them bawling out, little imagining that the culprit was then looking down upon them. But it was not the only time my heels had saved me from having a night's lodging in the guard-house.

It was reported that Tahir Pacha had given orders that if, in future, they surprised an Englishman without a lantern, to apply the bastinado *instanter*, observing, that when they were kept till the next morning before it was inflicted, their consuls always extricated them without their receiving any personal castigation.

I could hardly credit that he would dare give such counsel; but when the affair occurred with Mr. Churchill, I believed there might be some foundation for the report. Certain it was, that Tahir Pacha was a great amateur of corporeal punishment.

Whilst I was at Constantinople, all the captains of the ships of the line received, with the exception of two, by his orders, the bastinado. In another instance, when the fleet was performing certain evolutions before the Sultan, one ship, which was American built, sailed much swifter than the rest, and passed that of Tahir: whereupon he went on board the offending vessel with a great stick, and immediately knocked down the captain, and cudgelled him as long as he could stand over him.

This abrupt manner of correcting an officer for any dereliction of duty, or for any remissness of those under their orders, was not uncommon. Formerly, the Turks considered that they had the privilege of compelling a Christian to sweep the street before them; and, some time since, some low fellows put the broom into the hands of one of the first English merchants in Constantinople,

who, highly indignant, went immediately and complained to the Sultan, by whose orders the minister of police was instantly sent for. The moment he entered he was floored by two men with clubs, and would certainly have been dispatched, had not the merchant interfered, and entreated that the chastisement might cease. When the Sultan observed, "Ah! that is the way you Franks always behave: you come to me and make a complaint, then when I attempt to award the punishment that is merited, you always interfere to prevent it." "But," said the merchant, "the minister was not present; therefore, how could he help it?" "True," replied the Sultan; "but he ought to have preserved the police of the capital in such a state, that so flagrant an outrage could not have occurred. Had those who were under his command been at their proper stations, some one would have been within call, and, at the moment, would have punished the delinquents:" adding, that it was the practice of the Porte, when any thing did not work well in any branch of the legislature, to punish the heads of the department, leaving them to chastise the underlings.

A friend of mine met with a still more extraor-

dinary instance of the roughest discipline being inflicted on persons, without any knowledge whatever that they were the offenders of whom complaints were made. He was travelling in Egypt, and passing through a village, had some stones thrown at him by some youths, one of which hit him. He complained of this to Ibrahim Pacha, who immediately ordered four young men of the village to be flogged,—no matter whether they were the persons who had done wrong or not,—because, he contended, his object was to prevent the recurrence of such a circumstance. "And now," added he, "when the inhabitants of that village find that any one of them is liable to be flogged for an outrage on a stranger, they will always one and all exert themselves to prevent any one that might pass through being insulted, for their own sakes." Ibrahim further observed, "that he should consider it highly injurious to his country, were it stated in the English papers that travellers had stones thrown at them with impunity, when passing through the villages in Egypt, as it might give the British people a very bad opinion of the administration of the laws in our nation."

The punishment of the bastinado is sometimes inflicted to so severe a degree, as to occasion death. An instance happened during my residence in Constantinople, when the Sultan was passing in a vessel between the city and Galata. A man with his boat could not get out of his way in time, probably from fright, and was sentenced to receive fifteen hundred lashes, but expired before thirteen hundred had been applied.

With regard to the European commercial establishments at Constantinople, the same remark may be made as of those of Smyrna. The natives of the country are increasing their concerns and forming branches in different parts of Europe; and really the strange manner in which business is conducted by some of the English houses is such that one would not feel surprised if they fell from neglect alone.

On one of the principal merchants and bankers I once had a very trifling draft, and was told the cashier was not at home, although it was within the hours of business. A second time I went, and there was some demur; and I found that they were endeavouring to see if they could make up the amount with what the clerks had about

them; but in vain, and I had to go a third time. A young architect, who had to receive his money from the same house, informed me that the cashier would sometimes candidly say that they had not so much in their possession at the time, begging him to call in a few days.

At another English house, a gentleman, who had recently arrived at Constantinople, had occasion to call about business, when asking for the principal, he was informed he was gone shooting; then the managing clerk, when the reply was, "Oh, Sir, he is with him." "Then any other person with whom I can transact business," to which he was answered, that the other clerk was gone a fishing, but he might speak to the hummal, that is, the porter. However astonished the gentleman was at first, he afterwards found it was not an unfrequent manner of doing business at Pera.

When I left, several of the English mercantile houses were in their decadence, and some had already failed. One gentleman of the name of Simmons, who had formerly been a diamond merchant, and who still carried on business on a small scale, had taken a farm within half a mile of Pera; and there is no doubt, that had he possessed any

agricultural or horticultural information, his undertaking might have proved highly lucrative. Even with the errors into which he fell, from his ignorance in matters of husbandry, his farm was still rendering him a fair profit.

The great advantages which he possessed were these, his rent was so trifling that it was merely nominal, a sort of acknowledgment that he held the land under the protection of the Porte. Tithes, poor's rates, or taxes, he had none; labour was much cheaper than in England; and some of his produce much dearer, as potatoes, Constantinople being supplied with that article, either from England or Russia.

On the whole, I know no part of the world where a man can settle with such advantage, if he be a good agriculturist, as he is not subject to the laws of the country nor liable to the imposts. Thus he may make a fortune; whilst the native subject can never be allowed to accumulate anything, under the system of licensed pillage and extortion, which at present is enforced by the different authorities to whom the power is delegated by the Turkish government.

The grand point for a foreigner to accomplish, would be to obtain a grant from the government

of a certain portion of land, which, with very little interest, could easily be effected; some trifling douceur or fee being necessary to some of the influential officers about court.

Mr. Simmons, in commencing, cultivated much more corn than was good policy, that being one of the cheapest commodities in Constantinople, whilst potatoes and vegetables, from being extremely dear, would have well requited him for the trouble of culture; and such he assured me would be his future plan. He is a man whose hospitality is unbounded, and having seven daughters, and two sons, has a constant society in his own family; but being superior to those petty national prejudices the natives of all countries are welcome to his house, and provided they be respectable, no question is asked as to the nation to which they belong. His wife is Aleppine (native of Aleppo), and one of several sisters who form the heads of some of the pleasantest families of Constantinople.

The streets of Pera are extremely narrow, and disagreeable, the pavement abominable, and that which is the principal thoroughfare is often so crowded with asses and their burthens, as to be almost impassable. The streets often are not

named, and the houses, which look exactly alike, are never numbered; I have often therefore gone to half a dozen before I could find out which was the one I wanted.

The artist who lived in the same house with me, ultimately took a droll method of finding me out. He had been rightly informed, as to the street in which I resided; but as the houses all resemble each other, he could form no idea as to the one in which I was to be found; he therefore began bellowing out my name as loudly as he could bawl. I was very busy in my salon on the second floor, and heard myself called upon from without in a tremendous manner, but at first thought it was one of the street cries, which might resemble my name; till hearing it repeated, I threw open the window, and saw my friend the tall and gaunt German painter whom I had formerly known at Athens.

If a man be tired of his life, I know no better place for him to get rid of it than Constantinople, without being put to the trouble of suicide. In the first place, there is the plague; secondly, the fires, which every one is constantly liable to; thirdly, the risk of being drowned. I scarcely

knew any individual at Constantinople, who had not been upset in a boat, and in many instances loss of life occurs from such accidents; fourthly, the chance of falling into their wells at night; and fifthly, the having a house fall upon you, of which I had the narrowest escape, but sustained no other injury than being covered with the dust.

It is said that many English sailors, having become intoxicated, and overpowered by sleep, have been devoured by the dogs in the night; but as to the truth of such a circumstance ever occurring, I am rather sceptical.

Provisions, as far as regards bread and meat, are cheap at Constantinople, about the same as Smyrna; and some descriptions of vegetables are reasonable, whilst others are dearer than might have been expected. Butter they have from Russia, and frequently even corn, though they have thousands of square miles of land, of the best soil, totally uncultivated.

Notwithstanding that they are constantly building, rent is dear. There are plenty of houses of accommodation for strangers, the Hotel de l'Europe is recommended as the best. The table certainly is good, and the people civil, but there is an air of

comfortlessness about the house that prevents one from ever feeling at home in it. The usual terms are generally about thirty to thirty-five piastres a day; that is, six or seven shillings. For this you are well fed, and have tolerable accommodations. The best method is to make an agreement with the landlord for so much per day, and is the plan which is mostly followed.

The Hotel d' Italie is something of the same description, but I have understood of an inferior caste. Josepini's boarding house is much frequented, and is on a liberal scale. The apartments appeared to me much superior to those of the Hotel de l' Europe, but I have understood from connoisseurs that the table is inferior.

There are many other houses of a similar kind, but not so extensive. Madame Balbrani's was where I took up my quarters, and had every reason to consider myself fortunate in having been recommended there; but she can only find room for four persons.

Constantinople is well supplied with European doctors; Drs. M'Guffue, M'Carthy, and Millengen, are British, and a Dr. Zorab, though of Armenian descent, has been educated in Edinburgh, and is

much employed by the English. There is also a Dr. Ansaldi, an Italian, who has some reputation amongst the Europeans, and has much practice in the Turkish quarters; whilst I can answer for his being the best chess-player I ever met with, excepting only our countryman Mr. Lewis, whose fame has extended to most parts of Europe. It appears to be quite a false idea that the Turks are so wonderfully skilful at that game. Dr. Ansaldi assured me that he had played with many, and that they rarely passed mediocrity.

Ecarté and short whist are much played in all the societies here, but not at an extravagant rate; the latter, in the circles of the British merchants, has been regulated at five piastres a point. I was much amused at playing one night at one of the foreign embassies; and the terms were only half a piastre a point. At the English, no doubt, the stake is higher; but though I had a letter of introduction for the British embassy, I never delivered it, having been deterred from so doing by several circumstances which I had heard, and which did not at all operate as inducements, to go three or four times to Therapia, a distance of ten miles with the very slender hope one had of seeing the

ambassador, who, being a very late riser, never received any one till two o'clock, and absenting himself at three for his ride. Therefore, there was but one hour in which one had any chance of seeing his excellency; and as there are numbers aspiring for that honour, the hazard is five to one against your being admitted the first or second time of attempting it: and no inn having yet been established at Therapia, it is not easy to know what to do with oneself after having received a ducking, which must generally be the case if the Bosphorus be at all rough.

Nor was I much delighted with the description given of the manner in which strangers were received, (at least such as myself, without rank, wealth, or influence), by the attachés, who mostly form the medium that preludes your audience with the ambassador. I dined with one of these gentry once at Smyrna, who had just quitted Constantinople. In the course of conversation, I asked him how he liked the society of Pera; to which he replied,—Indeed he did not know anything of it, for that he never had anything to do with it. I found afterwards that he had been in the constant habit of passing his evenings with one or other of

the merchants' families at Pera, whenever his official duties would permit; but having received a grade of promotion, it appeared he wished to disclaim any knowledge of his mercantile friends. I understood he was the son of a dentist, or an oculist, in London, but in the East he considered himself a man of considerable importance.

A gentleman, who was very intimate with the English attachés at Therapia, told me how much he was amused at his first entrance to the ambassador's. There he found two young men lounging on a sofa, in all the delicious luxury of nonchalance, each smoking a cigar; and heard one say to the other, in the most namby-pamby tone that can well be imagined, "Now, my dear fellow, don't cut it quite so fat!" Perhaps some of my readers may better understand this slang sort of phrase than I do; I believe the English of it is, "Don't exaggerate so." But as one does not go to Constantinople to illustrate English society, I will leave the attachés, and proceed to far more interesting personages, the dancing dervishes.

Whoever visits Turkey should by all means see the dancing dervishes. That any custom so extremely absurd can still exist, in any country that

has the least shadow of civilization, seems most extraordinary. These singular beings wear loose robes which extend to the feet, and a high buff-coloured cap. They exhibit their agility in a building at Pera, which is rather curious, containing a circular enclosed place; the diameter may be about twenty feet. About seventeen or eighteen of the dervishes enter this enclosure, and walk very solemnly round it, bowing extremely low, and with some grace, to a certain priest, whenever they pass him. All of a sudden one begins extending his arms to their utmost length, and turning round rather slowly, closes his eyes. His example is soon followed by others, and at last the whole number are seen spinning themselves round, with their arms extended, and with considerable rapidity; yet, though so many of them, and in so small a space, they never, by any chance, hit or jostle one another.

I was told that, after some time, they would begin howling; but I became so giddy with constantly gazing at such a queer set of spinning-tops, that I left them, and let them have their howl to themselves. They preserve the most imperturbable gravity during the operation of their pirouettes:

it is a religious ceremony, but what the meaning is, I know not.

Every person visiting Constantinople should take a guide who is well acquainted with the different objects worthy of observation. The ciccrone-general to the English is a man named Mustapha, who is the cavass (or janissary) to Mr. Cartwright, the consul-general, and that gentleman is kind enough to spare him for the purpose of showing the lions to the British travellers. Mustapha, though Turk in garb and religion, is a native of Switzerland, arrived at Constantinople at a very early age, and was soon induced to become a renegade. He has been twenty-four times to Persia as courier, has had some hundred of falls from horses coming down with him, and in one instance was robbed, near a place called Mardin, some few days' journey from Bagdad. He was riding with a Tartar, when they were hailed by some banditti; but hoping they were better mounted than the robbers, they spurred on their horses to their full speed, instead of stopping, as commanded by the brigands. All their efforts, however, were in vain; Mustapha and his companion were overtaken and stripped, after having received a severe beating;

but the Tartar had far the most rigorous castigation, as he was considered the most in fault, whilst the traveller is supposed to follow the advice of his guide; therefore, on him the ostensibility rests, either of flight, resistance, or compliance.

Certainly his situation, and that of poor Mustapha, was by no means enviable. Having been deprived even of their shirts, they had to walk stark naked a distance of twelve miles, which, in such a climate, the reader may easily imagine was no joke.

Mustapha, be it known, is a person of no trifling importance: he is well acquainted with the localities of every object in or near Constantinople. He has also a certain collection of anecdotes, with which he entertains the stranger, as he toddles by his side, and which, with a few embellishments, do not tell badly in print; and thus he has in a great degree become the tourist's oracle, many travellers having, on so high an authority, afforded the world much information as to the manners and customs of the Turks; whilst, in addition to Mustapha's communications, they have remained as much as a week or a fortnight at Pera, have had ocular demonstration that there are such things as mosques

and minarets, have even taken the measure of some of them, and have culled from different works the dimensions, and, with such ample material, have been enabled to concoct a volume or two, on the resources, finances, government, and wonders of Turkey, for the edification of the stay-at-home public, but not for those who travel, as they soon find the error of statements made on so shallow a foundation. Not that it is to be supposed that Mustapha is by any means wanting in intelligence; on the contrary, I consider he possesses much more than the major part of his auditors. He speaks many languages, amongst the rest English, passably well, German, French, Italian, Greek, and, I believe, Armenian and Arabic. Any one quitting Constantinople by land must consult him respecting a Tartar or guide, as he knows the greater part of them, and so much of a traveller's comfort on his journey depends upon the good or bad qualities of the Tartar.

With all its disadvantages, Pera has some attractions as a residence for some persons. A British physician, who had made his fortune there, returned to his own country to spend it; but after a very short stay amongst his native scenes, he

came back to Pera, there to pass the remainder of his days. A British consul, who received an intimation that he would soon be supplanted, declared that, even though he lost his situation, he should continue to reside at Pera for the rest of his life.

Any one who can form his happiness from the resources of his own mind may live happily anywhere, and at Pera particularly so, because he is surrounded with such beautiful scenery; but as the above gentlemen require something more than their mental treasures to constitute their felicity, I am at a loss to discover what allurements they can find at Pera, beyond those which are to be procured in their own country. Their game at whist and their ecarté are generally to be had in England, if they seek the card-playing circles; but I believe the truth is, that these gentlemen are conscious that at Pera they are somebody, are as the petty lords of a village; whereas in London, Dublin, or Edinburgh, they would be nobody. The French have a saying which implies, "a man who has one eye, is a prince amongst the blind," and is considered as a phenomenon; and so are many Europeans at Pera estimated as lights of

the first brilliance, though they would be only remarkable for their dulness elsewhere.

Some few there are, it is true, who are really intellectual men; but as they have but a limited communication with the rest of the world, their conversation becomes rather local, which well suits the passing traveller, as it is local information he requires; but, as a resident, one tires of always hearing of the same places and the same people; as, although the merchants have not such an exuberance of business as to confine them much to their desk, yet there are few of them much given to reading; consequently there is a paucity of subjects on which they can converse.

There are few persons who visit Constantinople who are not addressed to the house of Messrs. Black and Hardy, merchants and bankers, or that do not obtain introductions to them if remaining long in the place: those gentlemen are certainly most agreeable exceptions to the above remarks; and I believe there are none that have been fortunate enough to make their acquaintance, but have had the pleasure of experiencing their hospitality; and amongst the numerous acknowledg-

ments which have been made of their kindness to strangers, I also must add my tribute.

At their houses most of the British visitors to Constantinople are to be met; whilst that of Monsieur Blaque was principally frequented by the French. To that gentleman, and Mr. Churchill, I am indebted for all the information I have received which was beyond what my own observations could collect; and as few persons could have had better opportunities of obtaining correct accounts of the state of Turkey, I flatter myself that the intelligence I have acquired, whether statistical, political, or biographical, will prove equally so, and that the information I have attempted to afford my readers will seldom be found erroneous, as the gentlemen from whom I derived it were both engaged in such professions as compelled them to make every research in their power, that they might be enabled to furnish their correspondents with whatever was passing in Turkey, the one communicating with France, and the other with England; and as men of discernment, were not likely to afford any information which they were not confident was correct.

Many of the ladies play passably well on the

piano; but their instruments were so often out of tune, as the convenience of arranging them is not always at command in this country, that the pleasure to be derived from music was much diminished.

On winter evenings, many parties amuse themselves often with what the French call *petits jeux*, such as cross-questions and answers, forfeits, &c., which are always carried on decorously. They have an immense variety of these games, and some of them are really entertaining.

There is a freedom of manners with the ladies towards gentlemen, which a foreigner would be apt to call boldness; but custom sanctions it. The ladies, in fine weather, sit much at the windows; and even the young and unmarried will call out to a gentleman in the street, if they know him, and invite him up, or hold a conversation with him from the window, which certainly in most capitals in Europe would be regarded as a most outrageous indecorum.

Most of the Frank houses at Pera have a sort of bay window, which projects very far; in this they arrange bedding and pillows, and on these the ladies pass the greater part of their time, half

sitting, and half lying, looking at the passers by. In the heat of the summer very few respectable families remain in Pera, almost every one having a country house near or on the banks of the Bosphorus; and, fanned by the breezes from the Black Sea, in their gardens, kiosks, and groves, they wile away the sunny hours.

CHAPTER XVII.

TURKISH CHARACTERISTICS—NOT NATURALLY CRUEL—PATIENT IN ADVERSITY—PERSONAL APPEARANCE—BEAUTIFUL CHILDREN—THEIR UNWHOLESOME FOOD AND HABITS ONE CAUSE OF THE PLAGUE — FUMIGATING ONESELF — PREVENTIVES AGAINST THE PLAGUE—A VERY ANTI-SOCIAL MALADY—MEASURES ADOPTED—DIFFERENT OPINIONS—RELUCTANCE TO ENTER THE HOSPITALS—PLAGUE ASSERTED TO BE STILL IN ENGLAND—ITS SYMPTOMS—INCONVENIENCES OF QUARANTINE—WARNING TO TRAVELLERS—TREMENDOUS FIRE AT PERA—EXTRAORDINARY PROGRESS AND WONDERFUL EFFECTS—PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES IN TAKING A HOUSE—FORCE THE PRINCIPAL LAW IN TURKEY—CRUELTY OF THE GOVERNMENT—BENEFICIAL EFFECTS FROM DESTROYING THE JANISSARIES—PRESENT SECURITY FOR STRANGERS.

A VERY false idea has long prevailed regarding the Turks throughout Europe, and more particularly in England, where the word Turk has been applied as a mark of opprobrium, to designate ferocity, brutality, or savageness. In France they are more moderate, merely saying, As strong as a Turk; and the same comparison is sometimes made in Scotland.

Perhaps there is no other country in Europe where the honesty of individuals is so prevalent as in Turkey. I have travelled in many parts of it, where I have seen the cushions and pillows, on which people sleep, left outside the houses all night, under a sort of awning, the owners not appearing to have any idea that there was the least risk of any person appropriating to themselves that which belonged to another. Although they will endeavour to get as much as they can from you in striking a bargain, yet if, in mistake, even a para too much have been paid, they will return it; and if the difference be material, there have been many instances known of their taking great pains to find out the persons who had given them more than the sum agreed, in order to restore that which they never could consider as their own. The boatmen have often returned me some small coin, when I thought I had but given them their due.

The Turks are by no means naturally cruel, except where they are excited by revenge, or instigated by religious fanaticism. The events of the Greek war will, perhaps, be cited as having afforded numerous proofs of their cruelty; but it must be remembered, that the massacres, and other

acts of barbarity, which they committed, were always as reprisals, after having been wrought to the highest pitch of fury by the revolting and unprecedented tortures that were inflicted on their countrymen who became prisoners to the Greeks. The Turks are naturally kind, hospitable, and humane, and ever ready to grant succour to the sinking traveller, which was so powerfully exemplified in the case of Lord Byron, after his enterprise of swimming across the Hellespont.

The wonderful patience and endurance of which the Turks are capable, under the severest trials, is most admirable. Reconciling themselves to whatever happens, as being the will of the Deity, they thereby imbibe a lesson of resignation, which teaches them to bear with fortitude and philosophy the direst calamity to which human nature is liable; and well would it be for the natives of the most civilized countries if, in this instance, they could copy the poor uneducated Turk.

One quality they have, also, to a most extraordinary degree. Although naturally indolent, and always sitting when it can at all be admitted by the nature of their occupations, yet, when the greatest exertion and fatigue must be undergone,

none can go through it better than a Turk. Few Europeans can bear such violent and continued exercise, and endure so calmly hunger, thirst, heat, or cold, in their utmost excesses, as the generality of the Turks.

Much of this character is discernible in their countenances, from which, perhaps, the casual observer might augur ferocity; as their eyes are dark, their brows the same, as also their beards; and their aquiline noses, with their olive complexions, all contribute to give a stern appearance to their features. But let the physiognomist pause in his judgment, and he will find that mildness is the leading characteristic in the Turkish countenance. Their heads appear as if made on purpose for the turban, and for dignifying the picturesque costume which they wear; but with the change of garb which has latterly taken place amongst the troops, all the advantages of their physical appearance seems entirely lost. The infantry now wear a dark blue jacket and trowsers, exactly like our sailors, except that the Turk retains still the red cap. The officers wear a sort of chocolate, and sometimes dark blue, kind of frock coat and trowsers, with a black leather belt, from which

the sword is suspended. Their grade is distinguished by a kind of order, which they wear attached to the coat; it is sometimes of diamonds. They are mostly, when young men, remarkably small in the waist; but by when they are thirty, they generally get very thick and heavy, if belonging to those classes who are in easy circumstances: the soldiers and sailors remain thin, and look mean and miserable.

Owing to the immense extent of the Turkish empire, its subjects have as different a personal appearance as can be found in natives of countries far remote from each other; but, generally speaking, the European population display a great physical superiority over the Asiatic; and, perhaps, the finest men known in the Turkish dominions are to be found amongst the Albanians and Bosnians.

There certainly must be some cause why the Turks are not finer men than is actually the case, as the children at Constantinople are the most beautiful and the finest I have ever seen in any country. Their plump rosy cheeks, and their exquisitely clear complexions, present the most glowing picture of health that it is possible to imagine; whilst their cherry-coloured lips, white

teeth, and their dark eyes, sparkling like diamonds, give them an animation such as I have never seen elsewhere. But in arriving at manhood, they certainly do not keep up to the promise; even at six or seven years of age they lose that sparkling brilliance, that dazzling red and white, so conspicuous in little urchins under that age: still as youths they mostly continue handsome, but become more sallow, and assume quite a different expression. Instead of the merry archness so winning in their childhood, they have a melancholy or sentimental appearance: the changed tone of complexion is, perhaps, the principal cause of this alteration.

I think much is attributable to the nature of their food, and the constant use of the hot vapour baths: eternally sipping coffee and smoking, I should imagine, could not be wholesome, if it were only inasmuch as it encourages constant sitting. The total want of solidity in their regular food, the forced fasts during the Ramazan, must all tend towards unhealthiness, and, I should conceive, must be the reason why the children are so much finer than the adults.

At Constantinople there is no doubt but that

the filthy state of the streets and lanes often promotes disease, and is one cause of the plague making such ravages in those quarters which are the most thickly inhabited, and generally the dirtiest. However many eminent medical men hold an opposite opinion, I still feel persuaded that England, France, Germany, &c. are indebted to their increased cleanliness and quarantine laws, that they are no longer cursed with that dreadful scourge, which formerly raged in our own country to such a destructive degree. In fact, to what other cause can be attributed its entire disappearance in those parts where proper precautions have been enforced.

Whilst I was at Constantinople the plague always existed more or less. At one period it was very virulent at Pera, to my extreme annoyance, as I was compelled, every time I returned home, to undergo the operation of perfuming, or rather fumigating. For this purpose you enter a sort of sentry-box, where you stand on an iron grating, under which herbs are burnt; and there you remain, putting your head out of a hole, as if in the pillory, till it is considered that you are sufficiently purified.

The persons in whose house you live are very peremptory in insisting on your going through this ceremony, whenever you enter the house; not for love and affection for yourself, but for fear you should convey the malady to any members of the family. To me the purification was most unpleasant; the odour of the herbs, and the smoke together, half choking me: and I used sometimes to declare, that I thought they would at last kill me by suffocation, to prevent my dying of the plague.

It must be admitted that I was extremely careless in regard to taking those precautions which are generally adopted by residents at Constantinople; such as drawing the skirts of your coat closely about you, to prevent their brushing against the clothes of any passer by. So constantly is this adhered to when the plague is raging at its height, that one day that I was walking with a little girl of about ten years of age, she perceived my coat touch the robe of an Armenian, and she immediately let go my hand, declaring that she would not come near me any more till I was purified, as I was most probably infected.

When I first set out I did as other people, and took care not to rub against any one; but after

being out some time I always forgot it, and visited the Bagnio and the bazaars at the time that the disease was at its worst, where I was obliged to enter a thick crowd, and jostle against hundreds. But it is generally admitted, that those who take the greatest precautions are frequently amongst the first victims,—which I can believe; because he who is always adopting some measures to avoid the malady is necessarily always thinking of it, and in nine cases out of ten always fearing it. This brings on a sort of feverish anxiety, which rather discomposes a person; and if they have any lassitude or feebleness, or in fact any thing in the least degree the matter with them, they then become susceptible of imbibing the contagion.

Not that I would by any means advise persons not to take any precautions. On the contrary, I would recommend every one to attend to them, but to do so without making themselves uneasy; as sound health, and an easy state of mind, are amongst the best preventives against the plague.

It is amusing to see the means to which people have recourse to avoid receiving the infection. All money that is given you in change is brought in a plate under water, a letter is never delivered to

you without being first perfumed. Many families shut themselves up entirely, or, as it is termed, put themselves into quarantine: they then never receive the visit of any one, or even permit any person to pass the threshold of the door.

Often, in passing through the streets, I have seen a basket attached to a cord travelling up to a window, laden with some description of provisions, as at those periods many persons will not suffer their servants to go out, during the prevalence of the disease, as they could not count on their caution in evading the infection.

It certainly is a most anti-social malady. Frequently have I met a friend in the street, and held out my hand to him, forgetting that the pestilence forbade every act of friendship that would bring persons in too close a contact, whilst my unsuspecting proffer of welcome has been declined by the polite apology of "Excuse me, Sir." In times like these, we are as friendly as ever in our hearts, but we do not shake hands.

When a person is known to be afflicted with the plague (*un pestiféré*), all affection for the object frequently appears to perish. At that moment even the mother's love yields to the terror she has

of the dreaded disease, as she knows if she should herself catch it, that she might communicate it to some other part of the family, and thus the poor *pestiféré* is often left to droop and die alone. Nourishment is conveyed by some means to the unfortunate object, without approaching close enough to incur any risk of catching the infection.

At Constantinople a family is sometimes ruined by having a *pestiféré* in their house, if it be known to the police or government; as, in that case, agents enter the house and turn out all the inmates, throwing water over every article of furniture, and recklessly spoiling every thing. The diseased sufferer is conveyed to the hospital, and a guard is placed before the door of the house, who prevents any one from entering it. The family who have been turned out may in vain seek a home, as no one will receive them, fearing that they may be infected. At last they are obliged to encamp in a tent, until it is imagined that they are become sufficiently purified.

Bitter is the grief to an affectionate family, when they see one of its members torn from them to be taken to the hospital. They may at the gates enquire after the patient, but any farther com-

munication is forbidden; and the hospital, alas! is but too surely the portal to the grave. Formerly there was scarcely ever an instance of recovery, but now it sometimes happens even in the hospitals. In the months of July and August, an encampment was formed of the pestiférés, and such as were suspected of being slightly touched; and of those persons many recovered.

I found most of the European physicians at Constantinople deny that the plague was contagious. All admit that it is infectious, but they have such a host of arguments to support their favorite theories, that one is afraid to enter on the subject, not knowing when it may ever end. In support of its not being contagious many instances have been adduced, of persons who have slept in the same bed, one having died of the plague, and the other never catching it, as it often happens that the disease will have proceeded nearly to the last extremity, before it is pronounced the plague.

Dr. Ansaldi related a circumstance which occurred in his own practice, confirmatory of this frequent, and often fatal error. He was called in to attend the captain of an Italian merchant vessel,

and he immediately judged the patient's disorder to be plague. This his wife and relations would not admit; and they then sent for one of the native doctors, who had been accustomed to attend persons afflicted with that disease, and he directly stated positively that it was not the plague. Dr. Ansaldi persisted in his opinion. A Jew was next summoned who had suffered by the malady, and who was considered one of the best judges in doubtful cases. He agreed with the native doctor, and said that the European was wrong, and that it decidedly was not the plague. Nor was it found to be so until the day of the man's death, when his wife still refused to quit him, but remained lying by his side till he expired; yet neither she nor any of those who attended him caught the disease, which was incontrovertibly found to be the plague, as even the native doctor, and the Jew admitted that they had been mistaken.

There is ever a tendency to conceal the fact when it is the plague. Fear of the consequences makes people hope that it is any other complaint, and cling to that doctor's opinion, who favours their hopes rather than those who confirm their fears. The dread of seeing relations whom they love

forcibly carried from their home, often induces the family to misrepresent the nature of the complaint, with which one of its members is affected, when it happens really to be that appalling disorder; and most heart-rending are the agonies of the sufferer, when taken from the paternal roof to that mansion of death, where strange faces, and those who have no kindred feeling, alone must surround him: for at his home, although even the family and relations dare not approach the patient, yet he sees them, he hears their voices, he feels their sympathy, and he knows, that every thing that he may need will be by some means conveyed to him, and that all the consolation his case will admit will be administered to the very last moment, whereas he considers in going to the hospital, in being consigned to strangers, his complaint will neither receive proper medical aid, nor the soothing cares which the sick require, but that he will be left to perish with neglect.

In the house in which I lived we had agreed to a proposition, which the mistress submitted to us, which was to this effect,—that if any of us should be attacked with the plague, that a bed should be made up in the garden, under a shed,

as an exposure to the air is advisable; which would prevent the probability of communicating the infection to other members of the family: that the affair should be kept strictly secret to avoid the horror of being conveyed to an hospital, and that, if death should ensue, the patient could be buried in the garden. As the house stood alone this might be effected; but when I quitted neither myself nor either of the other boarders or inmates, had been attainted by the dreaded pestilence.

I have sometimes asked the European physicians, who declared that the plague was not contagious, how they explained the circumstance, that in former times, when we had no quarantine, we had the disorder, and that since it has been adopted we have it not. Some have answered that the plague *does* still exist in England, but under other names, and that medicine being better understood, cleanliness more attended to, the streets being much wider and more airy, it is easier got under, than when numbers of persons were heaped together in close confined places, and dirt was suffered to accumulate till it produced unwholesome odours, and nourished the disease,—which

they at once consider as accounting for the ravages it formerly made.

I then have asked under what names those maladies were known, which they consider really to be plague. I forget some of those which they mentioned, but remember that typhus was the disease on which they laid most stress, as being the same as the plague: but from a comparison of the symptoms of the two disorders, I can trace but little similarity.

The first warning of the plague is head-ache: sometime after, ulcers appear, and when they become black it seldom happens that the sufferer recovers: insanity generally takes place prior to dissolution. Lemonade is given in great quantities, which the person should constantly keep drinking: but one of our official authorities and a captain in the navy were attacked by the plague, and cured themselves with something stronger than lemonade, as they contrived to keep themselves in a state of intoxication for three days.

It certainly often happens, during the prevalence of the plague, that many persons are supposed to have it, when it ultimately proves to be some other disease. A most provoking instance of this

nature occurred to a young Englishman in quarantine some where in the Austrian dominions. He had remained in the Lazaretto the number of days required, but prior to being discharged was requested to strip, to which he at first objected; but finding it was necessary to do so to procure his liberty, he complied, when the ignorant sons of Æsculapius, who were appointed to inspect persons, and give them what is termed "*libre pratique*," espied some spots about him which they thought might be the plague, and would not give him his liberty. He was therefore compelled to write to London for a certificate from a physician to state, that the obnoxious places which had so alarmed the learned doctors were the effects of a complaint with which he had been afflicted, prior to his quitting England. To obtain this document occupied a considerable time, but it was not deemed sufficient, and was sent to Vienna for the Government signature, before the young man could procure his discharge. By the interference, however, of his ambassador, the instrument required was signed by the proper authorities, and at last the *détenu* was liberated, although not until he had been in confinement above two months.

I have dilated more on the subject of the plague than many of my readers may think agreeable, and I dare say have more than once been inclined to exclaim, "Plague take the author for being so prosing!" but I consider it a topic of vital importance to those who may chance to visit the East, to whom I hope the foregoing remarks may not be wholly useless, and that at least they will take more precautions than I did. As, although I was lucky enough to escape, yet nine out of ten, who pursued so thoughtless and reckless a course, would certainly have had more experience of the plague than myself, but probably would not have been able to have given so long an account of it.

I shall now proceed to make some remarks on the tremendous fires so frequently occurring in this country, and particularly on that which happened at Pera eight or nine years since, and is stated to have consumed eight thousand houses, which I conceive to be an exaggeration; but the destruction appears to me to have been much greater than would have been possible, if some incendiarism had not been concerned in it. That houses on opposite sides of the street may ignite, I can understand, even if the space be tolerably

wide: but how the British and French embassies should have caught fire, I certainly cannot comprehend, situated as they are in the midst of gardens, of not less than six or seven acres each, and though, in different quarters, it was contrived that they should both be burnt down, as well as many other houses belonging to European merchants, which were very distant from the quarter in which the fire commenced. It is true that it happened in the month of August, during a period of excessive heat, when the houses, which are mostly of wood, were extremely dry, and kindled like touchwood, and showers of fire filled the air.

Many persons from their roofs, kiosks, and terraces, viewed the conflagration while raging at a distance, little dreaming that their own houses would soon share the same fate. Amongst those was my landlady, who, at that time, had a house in the midst of a large garden, and with the rest of her family and inmates gazed for some time from her roof until the particles of fire poured like hail upon them, and compelled them to descend; and finding the burning material increasing, some apprehensions arose for the safety of their own habitation, which were too soon confirmed, having


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just time to save their plate and linen, losing all their furniture. A poor religieuse (a nun), who was lodging in the house, had retreated with the other inmates, but, in spite of persuasions, would re-enter the house to save her cash; before she could quit it, the roof fell in and buried her in the ruins.

Many persons, after they had escaped from their own houses, had dreadful perils to encounter in climbing over the burning ruins, the streets in some places being entirely blocked up by them; and often they found themselves surrounded by piles of blazing timber, over which they had to scramble to reach a place of safety: thus many were dreadfully burnt in the legs in their progress to a secure retreat.

I was observing to Mr. Black, one of the principal English merchants at Constantinople, that I never could believe it possible, that so extensive a conflagration could have taken place from one house only having taken fire, but that it must have been purposely kindled in several places. He expressed a different opinion, declaring, that he had seen a sort of red-hot substance fly out, with immense force from a burning house, as if shot

from a cannon, and influenced by the wind, ignite a Turkish dwelling, at the distance of a quarter of a mile. But even admit that Mr. B. might not be deceived in the distance, and that it might be possible that a house was set on fire from another so remote from it, and making every allowance for the facility with which the painted wooden edifices kindle, the singular circumstance of the English and French embassies taking fire, although built of stone, is not explained; particularly the former, as sailors were constantly employed to throw water over the roof.

When one of the European ambassadors remarked to the Sultan, what a dreadful calamity the fire had proved to the Franks, he answered, that it was nothing to Navarin,—which has strengthened the idea that the fire was not merely accidental.

So constant is the expectation of being subject to be turned into the street by having your house in flames, that the first object to which a person attends, in seeking a new abode, is to see if there be some large vacant place near where they can stow their furniture, in case of fire, and that there be free egress to an open space; hence, they

prefer having houses near the cemeteries, as in narrow streets the confusion of every person bringing out their goods blocks up the passage, and struggles ensue, in which considerable damage takes place; therefore, in taking a house at Pera, all these calculations are made, which would not be thought of in other places.

The government has seen the dreadful effects of these calamities, without having provided any efficient means for diminishing the ruinous consequences which are continually happening from this terrific scourge. Engines there are, it is true, but either from the want of water or bad management, they have generally proved of little avail.

Although it appears to be a favourite system with many of the European inhabitants of Pera, indeed, I may say, with the best informed, to eulogise the institutions, legislature, and government of the Porte, yet with all due submission to the superior judgment of those gentlemen, I can scarcely imagine any mode of ruling a people much worse than that adopted in the Ottoman empire. In the first place, there is a total recklessness both for the lives and the comforts of the subject, all idea of justice is set at defiance, even

its semblance is not assumed: force alone in many cases is the only argument to which they resort.

A powerful instance of this was related to me by a highly esteemed English officer, who had been some years in the service of the Porte. He had received orders to have a certain vessel ready for use, which was either in an unfinished state or under repair, by a certain day; and which, he replied, was impossible, unless he had two hundred additional hands. Orders were therefore given to press six hundred men, the government having occasion for four hundred for other services. Accordingly, agents were sent to the adjacent villages, with directions to take every man they met, till they had procured the required number. Two hundred were allotted to the service of the English captain, and they were compelled to work incessantly for twenty-four hours, not being allowed the slightest interval for repose. At length, they were permitted to rest; but no food whatever had been provided for them, although they were in the most pitiable state of exhaustion, as must have been anticipated; and several would have perished had not Captain ——, with true English feeling, from his own funds paid for

loaves for the poor fellows, even on producing the money, it was with the greatest difficulty he could obtain sufficient food on the instant for so many hungry beings. The government, it is true, afterwards remunerated him for the expense which had been incurred for the provisions.

In exigencies of this nature, when a number of men are wanted at the moment, and their services merely temporarily required, nourishment for the men pressed is not thought of, and as they are seldom likely to fall under such humane superintendants as the English captain, these unfortunate beings frequently die from fatigue and want of food.

Great ameliorations are undoubtedly daily taking place, and the most effectual reformation was achieved in the destruction of the Janissaries, as during the existence of that corps, there was frequently much danger in rambling about the environs of Constantinople; and even in proceeding from Pera to that city, without being accompanied by a kind of Janissary, which under all cases was a protection. Several Europeans who have been walking about the outskirts of Pera, have been attacked by the Janissaries, and in some instances,

in self-defence, have killed those licensed murderers. I know an Englishman, who was out shooting, and a Janissary fired at him, but missed, and was again loading, when the Englishman, to preserve his own life, took deliberate aim at the Janissary, and killed him.

An Italian youth is known to have shot two under similar circumstances; but at the time such affairs were kept as secret as possible, or the safety of the individuals who had acted thus in their own defence, might have been seriously compromised. At present, persons of any nation or sect, may perambulate freely about Constantinople or its vicinity, and, I may add, almost throughout the whole of Turkey.

CHAPTER XVIII.

IMPROVEMENTS OPERATING IN THE CAPITAL—NO PROTECTION FOR PROPERTY—TURKEY FAR BEHIND OTHER POWERS—ARMENIANS THRIVING UNDER RUSSIA—SINGULAR MODE OF TRAVELLING—SOUND POLICY OF THE CZAR—STEAM NAVIGATION—TURKS ADOPTING EUROPEAN COSTUME—GULLS—VULTURES, AND EAGLES—STRANGE IDEAS OF TURKISH PEASANTS—THE BOWSTRING LESS EMPLOYED THAN FORMERLY—APATHY IN THE EAST—A PERSIAN CAPTIVE—HIS AMUSEMENTS—FIGURATIVE MODE OF SPEAKING—BANDITTI LESS FREQUENT AT PRESENT — THE TANDOUR — FASTIDIOUSNESS — TURKS EASILY PLEASED—ANTIQUITY OF THE ARMENIANS—INNUMERABLE COSTUMES IN CONSTANTINOPLE—TURKISH ECONOMY—RUSSIAN INFLUENCE — IMMENSE SOURCES OF WEALTH IN TURKEY—CALCULATING SYSTEM PURSUED BY RUSSIA—HER EVER ACTIVE EMISSARIES—TURKS APT IN IMITATING—DIFFICULTIES IN GETTING HOME—EXPENSES AND ANNOYANCES OF QUARANTINE—PREPARATIONS FOR DEPARTURE—REGRET—ONE LONG LAST SURVEY—FAREWELL, CONSTANTINOPLE.

THE improvements which have been effected in the administration of affairs in the Ottoman empire, have chiefly been felt at the capital, at Smyrna, and in the larger cities, but have extended very slowly towards the remoter provinces; and until the inviolability of private property is guaranteed, no very sensible augmentation of the prosperity of

Turkey can be very apparent. What with the influence of the ulemas, the system existing between the banker and the pacha,—(whereby the latter is forced to distrain upon his peasants to the utmost, to satisfy the rapacity of the former,)—and the exactions of the mollah, the cultivator hardly expects any surplus to remain to himself, being contented if he can retain sufficient to sustain his family. Hence, few care to cultivate more than is necessary for the consumption of their own circle.

A recent, and certainly a very enlightened author, who, according to the fashion of the day, rather advocates the Turkish mode of government, it appears to me beyond its merits, observes, "What, though the Turk sees every thing taken from him, still he is content, because he knows he is not alone in this bereavement, but sees all around him served the same," consoling himself therefore, with the idea, that he is no worse off than his neighbours. This is but a sorry argument for a rotten system.

Let any one cast their eye over Turkey, and the very first glance can but be productive of regret, to see a country blessed with every advantage that nature can bestow, and to behold her with not one

hundredth part of her rich soil cultivated, her roads in the most wretched state, and few in number, compared to the immense extent of their dominions, and the houses of accommodation for travellers miserable; and, in fact, in every respect they are a century behind the other European powers: and what is the cause but bad government? Whilst, let any one look at what the subjects of Turkey are capable of effecting, when due encouragement is given. Ask any traveller that has seen those provinces of Armenia which have fallen under the yoke of Russia, and any one will tell you, that at ten miles' distance you may distinguish which is Turkish and which Russian-Armenia; the former appears a barren waste, with here and there a cultivated spot, whilst the latter seems like one rich productive garden; and why is it? The reason is obvious; the Armenian, who is naturally one of the most industrious beings existing, knows when under the Russian government that he can say "This is my own, and such will be my own," when he crops his ground, as however he is aware that the taxation he may have to pay will amount to a certain sum specified, he feels confident that whatever surplus remains will be his

property; whilst in Turkey the cultivator is ever in a state of uncertainty, therefore, has no stimulus for exertion, as who will sow for another to reap.

Such, in fact, has been the favourable impression created throughout Armenia, regarding the treatment their countrymen have received in Russia, that when she made offers of grants of land on certain terms to the Armenians, three hundred thousand of them embraced the opportunity, packing up all their worldly goods, and leaving their native homes, to accept the protection of a foreign country.

A friend of mine was travelling through Armenia at the time, who described the cavalcade of these emigrants as one of the most curious sights he ever beheld. Every beast of burthen appeared to have been put in commission for the occasion; pots, pans, and a variety of utensils were swung like panniers across the backs of cows; and many of these submissive animals were laden with women and children, who were riding upon them the same as they would upon horses. The inducements for thus expatriating themselves, were the offers of land rent-free, principally about the Crimea, the soil being of the richest description,

and they were not to be charged with any tax or imposition for the first six years. Some rations of food were to be allowed them, on arriving at their destination.

Although in the present tone of feeling both in England and France, a word in favour of Russia is not well received, yet it is in consequence of the mild manner in which she has governed her conquered provinces, that those groaning under the Turkish yoke have rejoiced when themselves and their country have been delivered over to Russia, and from a poor oppressed people, they have soon risen to comparative prosperity.

I admit that policy is the ground-work of all which emanates from the government of the Czar, but whilst its effects merely tend to rendering a number of human beings more contented and happy than they were before, we will not quarrel with the motives. Unfortunately the same remarks are not applicable to their Polish subjects.

Turkey, with all its disadvantages, is certainly increasing in prosperity; and there exists a spirit in her which inclines at present to give attention to European improvements. Her ships of war are, some of them, splendid; one called the Mah-

moud, is, I believe, the largest vessel that has ever been afloat; the number of guns that she mounts is a hundred and forty. There are many European officers now in the service of the Porte, of some of whom any nation might be proud; and none more efficient than Captain Kelly, who commands the government steamer.

There is no doubt but that the progress of civilization will now proceed with rapid strides, as the facilities of communication with Constantinople will be so much accelerated, when the steam navigation is permanently and regularly established on the Danube. But with increased refinement, it will lose many of its most picturesque features. In ten years hence, the Eastern costume, so justly admired, will have given place to coats and waistcoats; and those customs which now so characterise the Turks, will have gradually diminished; and the sensation of wonder now excited on arriving at Constantinople, will not be greater than that produced by visiting any other capital in Europe.

The Turks have already begun to adopt English, French, or German carriages, amongst the Pachas or highest ranks, but those commonly in use are

called arabas, and are of a most singular construction; they have curtains all round, and a sort of canopy at top. Sometimes the ladies ride in them entirely open, at others they half or entirely close the curtains; they are covered with gilding, and painted in the most curious and tawdry manner; they are drawn by oxen, which are yoked together by a harness, of something the same gaudy description as the body of the carriage. Two hoops rise from the pole which passes between the animals, and from these semicircular pieces of wood hang ribbons of all colours; I fancy the intention is to keep off the flies from the cattle.

One portion of the population of Constantinople, which I consider far more interesting than the major part of the European inhabitants, is that which consists of the sea gulls. They look so pure, and are so snowy white, and having no affectation, are inoffensive, and so tame and docile, that I have seen the Turkish boatmen lift their oar with caution for fear of hurting one of these harmless creatures. They are wonderfully numerous about the Bosphorus and the Golden Horn, and I suspect that there is a superstitious feeling which prevents the lower orders from molesting

them, which probably is the cause why they will approach so closely, and appear to have no fear of man.

Next in rank and number come the vultures, who, with bare polls and hollow screams, are always flying about the streets; they have a wild, ravenous, and hungry look. There is also another bird which frequents the capital, called the Turkey eagle. It is a little larger than the vulture, and is of a yellowish white; but the prettiest and most interesting creatures to be seen at Constantinople are the turtle doves, which come billing and cooing on the sills of one's windows.

At some distance from Constantinople there are eagles of an immense size. One was brought to the door for sale by a Turkish peasant, who, calculating on the credulity of an Englishman, assured me that it had taken up a child; but finding it too heavy to proceed with it, dropped it, and the babe was killed by the fall. This, no doubt, was related to enhance the value of the bird, which certainly was of immense dimensions.

Notwithstanding that general information has much increased latterly throughout Turkey, yet in some of the obscurer parts, the utmost igno-

rance prevails. A gentleman, I know, of the name of Dwight, informed me of a circumstance which occurred to him at a place called Kars. He was travelling on his way to Persia, and one morning his Tartar told him that there was news from his country, meaning England, that the Sultan had given us a new King, alluding to the accession of his late majesty, King William the Fourth. Many of the Turkish peasants imagine that their sovereign nominates all the monarchs in Europe. Mr. Dwight endeavoured to convince his Tartar of his error, but found the fellow too obstinately wedded to his earliest and constant impressions to hear reason.

Had the power of Turkey been in proportion to the extent of her dominions, as they once were, she might, indeed, have dictated to the greater part of the world, when, reduced as her realms now are, she still possesses three thousand miles of coast, and nearly half a million square miles of territory; though, latterly, her history has presented a continued succession of losses.

It is astonishing how quietly a number of lives are sacrificed in Constantinople. Whilst I was there some conspiracy was discovered, which occasioned

the fall of many heads; but it was not generally known till three or four days after, and then was merely mentioned as any other occurrence that might afford news for the day. But they do not take off heads so frequently as formerly: in other days any one supposed to possess great wealth became a marked man, as a subject for the bowstring. A pretext was easily found for declaring that he was conspiring against the state; the culprit was strangled, and his property confiscated, and his wealth became that of his sovereign. They have now a milder method of managing those affairs. When the Porte has a longing for the coffers of a banker, he receives a hint from some parties and retires for a time. The Government then makes a seizure to a certain amount. The friends of the plundered intercede for him with the plunderers, who, at length, condescend to wink at the culprit's return, and, in fact, not to notice it. He resumes his business as before; and such is the wonderful talent that the Armenians possess for accumulating wealth, that though they are exiled, ruined, and quit Constantinople apparently destitute, after a time they are suffered to reappear in the capital, through the means of friends

at court: they re-establish themselves, thrive, and generally again become rich.

The commercial character of the Armenians is little better than that of the Greeks. They are generally a fine looking people. Money appears to be the subject that occupies their brains to the exclusion of every other; this feeling exists as much amongst the female sex as with their male. Their dark eyes would lead the beholder to imagine that ardent feelings were couched under their eager gaze; but he would generally be mistaken. Both sexes are much more passionless in the East than is usually imagined, and, the farther south, that degree of lassitude increases, which is the leading characteristic of the warmer climates. The reigning feeling is a kind of inertness or languor which approaches to a degree of indifference, and indolent ease appears to be their summit of happiness. One instance I do remember of a Turkish lady endeavouring to occupy herself. A Madame Sat was frequently in the habit of visiting some of the females of the highest class, and informed me, that in one instance she found one of these Sultanas beating the ground with two little sticks. Madame Sat asked her why she was doing so:

and the fair Turk replied by saying, "What would you have me to do? I must have some amusement." But this was rather an exception to the general rule, as they usually do not desire occupation, but like to dream away their lives without exertion.

The men have similar tastes, and though their days may roll on in eternal idleness, yet they do not appear to suffer much from ennui. A singular proof of this occurred, which I consider an illustration of the natural patient indifference of their characters. A Persian prince, who had incurred the displeasure of the Russians, by the chances of war fell into their power, and they imprisoned him for twelve years, in solitary confinement. A friend of mine asked the prince if he did not find his imprisonment dreadfully irksome. He replied in the negative, saying, that there was a small yard at the back of his apartment, and a stream of water which ran through the court afforded some amusement, as he used to watch the course of the water; besides, he had a flower-pot, in which he planted an onion. As soon as it came up he watched its progress, saw it blossom, and form its seed; he would then take it up and plant another, and observe its rise and fall

with the same vigilance. In addition to this he had his pipe, and with all this fund of entertainment he declared that the time never appeared to him to hang heavily, but, on the contrary, that he felt very comfortable and happy.

When restored to liberty, he received it with perfect calmness; in fact, to express one's self rapturously is not the fashion with the Mahomedans, any more than it is to utter murmurs in suffering. Yet, throughout the East, there still is a sort of metaphorical manner of speaking, which resembles the language of the Scriptures. Ask if a woman be handsome, they will reply, "Aye, fair as the rising sun when unsullied by a cloud;" or, enquire if an individual be of good character, or if they like the person: if the answer be affirmative they would say, "Like him? I wish the Lord would take ten years off of my life, and add them to his!"

The Turks, as servants, are remarkably faithful; and the feeling of hospitality is carried to such a romantic excess, that even a band of robbers are awed by it. If you can once enter their camp, and say you claim their hospitality, you are not only safe from them, but they would defend you

against the attacks of others, considering you as under their protection; but had they met you within a certain distance of their bivouac, before you could have claimed their hospitality, and thereby touched their honour, they would have made free with your property, and perhaps with your life: the same ill-treatment you might expect to receive if you met them a day or two after you had quitted their resting place, as they then consider that their pledge of protection ceases; but they would not track or follow you after quitting them for the purpose of robbing you, as soon as you are beyond the precincts of what they define as the extent of their guardianship.

Banditti are at present rare in Turkey; a few parts there are in which they may be encountered. The circumstance of Mr. Taylor being murdered not far from Bagdad was a most unusual occurrence in the present times, and created a most powerful sensation.

Considering that every Turkish peasant is allowed to go armed if he choose, it is extraordinary how few outrages are committed; and when one reflects on the immense extent of the Ottoman empire, the distances you are forced to travel

without seeing a habitation, the retreats which so mountainous a country affords for marauders, the proportionate difficulty of providing an efficient police in their remotest provinces, and the indifference of government on the subject, it proves the naturally good bearing of the people that the traveller is so seldom molested.

Notwithstanding the increased communication which the Orientals have had with Western civilization, how few of their luxuries, or even comforts, they have adopted, even amongst the highest classes! I remember once being at the house of a Greek archdeacon, and, wishing to draw, I asked for a table, and they had not one in the house; yet many servants were kept, and there were other symptoms of opulence.

One article the Franks have in Smyrna and Constantinople, which is a refinement even on English luxury. The article of furniture which I allude to is called a tandour; it is a table, at the bottom of which is a sort of foot-board, which is tinned, and on this is placed an iron vase of charcoal, which has been kindled in the air to suffer the sulphureous and unwholesome effluvia to evaporate; the under side of the top of the table is

also tinned to prevent its igniting; over this is thrown a thick quilted counterpane, which is of a rich silk, and reaches to the ground. The ladies sit round this and work, taking part of the covering on their lap; and any visitor who may happen to come in is invited to do the same: the counterpane soon becomes exceedingly warm, and they are the most comfortable things I have ever met with, either for reading, painting, or writing, as one can move them close to the window at will, which is more than one can do with the fire which is in a grate or stove.

The great pastime in Turkey is the pipe: but it appears singular that people who have no education, and consequently can have no resources in their own minds, should be less subject to *ennui* than those who are more refined, and whose accomplishments, one would imagine, would always prove a source of amusement; but so it is, and experience has often afforded me the proof. I can only account for it in imagining that when any person's education has been wrought to the highest degree they become fastidious, and few things can yield them delight. If they be perfect musicians, the hearing of music gives them no enjoyment,

unless the theme and the performers both approach perfection; and how seldom does that occur? If they be excellent draftsmen, how few pictures can afford them pleasure? If their taste for literature be exquisitely refined, even the happiness to be derived from books becomes limited. Such beings I have met with and have been out of all patience with them, because they were incapable of enjoying any thing; even they would carry their fastidiousness so far as to behold with indifference the expanse of a beautiful country, because they had seen a finer.

The exact opposite to these tiresome personages are children. They seldom are conscious of *ennui*, because they can always find amusement; a trifle will afford it: *occupation* with them, if their own seeking, is a pleasure. In some respects the natives of the East resemble the child. Indifferent music will please them, so will any daub of a painting; and if it have a little gilt stuck in, they will be quite delighted; and so will they be with the relation of a tale, no matter how extravagant or improbable. But here the similarity with children ceases, as *its* pleasures are all active, whilst those of the Orientals are entirely passive. With

the exception of riding on horseback, the Turk cannot form any idea of pleasure, if a more active occupation is required of him than smoking; this idea extends over the whole of the East. The Nabob of Arcot expressed his surprise to an English gentleman, that people of wealth in Europe should fatigue and heat themselves with dancing, instead of paying other people, as he did, to dance for them.

The Armenians are extremely active and persevering in acquiring money, and in every thing which relates to business; but when pleasure alone is concerned, they are rather of the quiet order. The Armenians boast of great antiquity; they say that as Mount Ararat is in their country, so must they be the most ancient people, and theirs the most ancient language. The towns of Erivan and Natchkivan are the nearest to the sacred mou... and some modern travellers have persuaded the inhabitants that they are the direct descendants from Noah. "Because," say they, "although he wandered from that spot and took a south-easterly direction, yet one of his sons returned and settled in Armenia, peopling the country, and speaking the same tongue as that still spoken by the natives of

that nation to this day." The idea is amusing, and is believed by many of the Armenians, if by no one else.

The different costumes in Constantinople, indicating the various parts from which the wearers come, are quite an interesting and difficult study. Mr. Churchill, who is remarkably *au fait* on the subject, was kind enough to take some pains to explain to me the distinctions of the numerous garbs worn by the Turks, Greeks, Armenians, &c.; and, amongst other leading characteristics, bade me observe that green round the turban always denoted a Turk. I then thought I was very learned; and as we were returning home, when we took water, observing our boatman had green wound round his red cap, I remarked he was a Turk, determined to prove I had not forgotten my lesson; but it appeared I was mistaken, for he was Greek. In vain I urged the distinguishing green, and was informed that it was not the true tint of that which is considered exclusively to belong to Mahomet. This, and several other blunders of something the same description, made me relinquish the attempt at discovering people's countries by their costume.

In a few years travellers will be but little puzzled on that account, as the time will come, and is probably not very distant, when all these nations will dress in the same manner as ourselves. Their habits and their education will also very soon begin to assimilate to our own. Already the idea has struck the Sultan of having some of his ladies instructed in various accomplishments. I knew a Madame Roulier, who was applied to for the purpose of teaching some of the females of the harem music, French, and Italian. The salary offered was extremely liberal, and the person selected as an instructress, highly competent; but being a remarkably fine woman, it was considered that she would be incurring considerable danger. As the Turkish ladies are allowed to be very jealous, it was presumed to be but too probable that Madame Roulier would stand a very good chance of some day taking one cup of coffee too many: she therefore was advised by her friends to decline the task of refining the inmates of the harem.

European luxuries of divers description are now beginning to be understood by the Osmanlees in Constantinople, but sometimes rather curiously applied. I remember seeing a Turkish military

captain, who had occasion to blow his nose, in the first instance make use of such means as nature supplies, and lastly, as a finishing stroke only, he resorts to the handkerchief, which is furnished by art and refinement. As he practised this little manœuvre at the time himself and his men were being reviewed, I should not be surprised at his subalterns following the example of their superior officer, imagining his seniority must give him a higher knowledge of the usages of the civilised world. Whether his mode of using his pocket handkerchief arose from ignorance or economy remains a question.

Most articles relating to the arts and ornaments of all descriptions are procured from Vienna, or St. Petersburgh, those of the highest value from London and Paris; but from the difference of the distance, their communication with the two latter cities is not so frequent or so rapid as with the former. The Russians are particularly sedulous of introducing their manufactures into Turkey, and certainly have obtained a greater influence over the Ottoman Porte than any other nation, which is exemplified even by the police, as if a man be stopped for being without a lantern at night, and

he can persuade the guard that he is Moskou, which is their designation for a Russian, he will be immediately set at liberty; but let him be of any other nation, and he will infallibly be incarcerated for the night.

Whenever Turkey may fall under the dominion of any civilised power, there is no doubt but that the commerce of every manufacturing and mercantile country will be considerably the gainer by such a change; and as England, by the wonderful power of her machinery, is enabled to manufacture at a cheaper rate than any other country, so will she reap the greatest advantage by the civilization of Turkey, even though it be effected by Russia.

When taught by example the advantages of European comforts and luxuries, the Mahomedans will gradually adopt them, and naturally procure them from the cheapest market, whilst no country can better afford a lucrative return for its imports,—with a climate and soil capable of yielding almost every production requisite for commercial intercourse, and mines which only need the enterprise and industry of man, to be converted into the most abundant sources of wealth.

Whilst Turkey remains under her own govern-

ment, her progress towards civilization must be slow. Too many interests are concerned in upholding the present system, to admit of its speedy abolition ; too many deeply-rooted prejudices must be eradicated, before a thorough reformation can take place, to allow the possibility of its being other than a tedious work of time. Whereas, by that which has been effected in those provinces which have fallen under the dominion of Russia, it is evident how much can be done with Turkish soil and Turkish subjects; and how rapidly improvement can be effected, when brought under the guidance of a protecting government.

But Russia, with all her calculating policy, wishes to stem the current of prosperity which is gradually advancing upon Turkey, notwithstanding the errors in her present institutions. As the more she can be kept in a state of comparative barrenness, poverty, and barbarism, the easier must she fall a prey to the grasping power of her colossal neighbour. I have been assured that Russia has exerted her influence, to nip in the bud, proposals which have been made to the government of the Porte, tending towards her

amelioration, *when* they have emanated from another country.

An English gentleman informed me that he suggested the idea of inducing some British farmers to come with their families, and settle in Turkey, if the Sultan would grant them a certain portion of land on favourable terms, observing that the advantages which would accrue from such a plan, would not only consist in bringing a large tract of waste into the highest state of cultivation, but that the improved system of agriculture which would be introduced into the country, would be highly beneficial, inasmuch as it would prove to the Ottoman farmers how much might be done by a perfected mode of husbandry.

His proposition was at first listened to by some of the leading ministers with much interest, and even approbation; but on a second interview, when he wished to renew the discussion, he found that his attempts were met with such coldness, that it was evidently useless to continue the subject; and declared that he afterwards received that information, which convinced him that the ever busy influence of Russia had been operating to counteract his project.

Had this gentleman's plan been submitted to the English government, and received their approval, there is no doubt that, if energetically recommended and supported by our ambassador, the suggestion would have been adopted. But the emissaries of Russia appear always ready and active in serving the interests of their country; and they seem to think that the more English subjects take root in Turkey, so many degrees must be subtracted from Muscovite sway at the Porte, and so many grades added towards civilising the Ottoman people, which by no means enters into the Russian policy. There is no doubt that if a few settlers established themselves any where within a day's journey of Constantinople, admitting that they had a good practical knowledge of agriculture, that it would prove a lucrative speculation, and that the Turks would speedily adopt any system of cultivation which they saw successfully practised around them, as they are extremely apt in imitating, and quick in learning, which they have proved in regard of music, having, under the tuition of M. Donizetti, made the most extraordinary progress, and now perform many of the symphonies of Rossini in the most masterly style.

Whoever intends going to Turkey I would advise to think well, not so much on how they are to get there, but as to the means of getting back again, as it is in their progress homewards, that they will be subjected to quarantine, unless they proceed direct by sea to England. In which case they must wait for the opportunity of a vessel's departure for that destination, and when that occurs, must make up their minds for a voyage perhaps of two or three months.

It had been often remarked to me, that the difficulty of finding out a convenient means of getting away from Constantinople, sometimes detained persons three months beyond their intention of staying. I met with a proof of this in the case of an English gentleman, who was very anxious to get back to England, but he did not know how. He could not bear the idea of being three months at sea shut up in a merchant vessel. I recommended him to proceed by land to Vienna, but the thought of seven hundred miles on horseback, and crossing the Balkan, he did not by any means relish, adding, that he did not consider himself horseman sufficient for so arduous a task.

He next talked of Odessa, and going home by a part of Russia, &c., which is a route, though circuitous, often adopted by the English, as a steamer plies regularly between Constantinople and Odessa; but he was very soon scared from that course by the reputed turbulence of the Black Sea. He at last made up his mind to take advantage of a ship bound for Malta, and set off forthwith for that island, and took leave accordingly of all his friends. However, a fortnight after this, I met him walking about the streets of Pera, and he informed me that on inquiry he found that he should be compelled to pass forty days in quarantine at Malta. As the plague was raging in Turkey at the time, all the quarantine laws were in the severest force. He therefore proceeded no farther than the Dardanelles, and returned by a steamer from Smyrna bound to Constantinople.

Besides its being an immense trial of one's patience to remain shut up in a lazaretto for forty days, the expense is by no means amusing to an economist. In France, and Italy, the same duration of penance is required, and in some parts of those countries, particularly the latter, a vessel is not allowed to enter certain ports from an infected

quarter; and in many places where there is no lazaretto you are not suffered to land, but must pass your forty days on board of the vessel, in which you arrive. Of all the places in which one is forced to perform quarantine, Malta is the dearest.

At length the perplexed gentleman decided on returning to Smyrna, the place from which he last came, and there to deliberate upon his future proceedings. I therefore would recommend my readers to pay due attention to this subject, if ever they dream of going to Constantinople, as hundreds there are who arrive at the city, without a thought ever crossing their minds, as to the disagreeables they have to encounter on their return to their own country.

At length the time approached that I must bid adieu to Constantinople, and having heard of a gentleman named Castelli, who wished to proceed to Vienna, I sought and found him, and he immediately entered into my views that we should travel together, and hire a Tartar at our mutual expense, M. Castelli undertaking to charge himself with providing one that would be trustworthy, and suit our purpose. We then procured our

firmans and tescaris, the one being a sort of passport, and the other a sort of permit authorizing us to hire post-horses throughout the Turkish dominions.

I found it was necessary for me to get rid of my large travelling trunk, as being too heavy and cumbrous for the manner in which they load the horses in the east. I was therefore obliged to purchase a leather portmanteau, as a horse is not allowed to carry more than a hundred okes, which amount to nearly three hundred English pounds: but this weight must be divided in equal portions, as they are slung across his back like panniers; therefore if one half is not so heavy as the other they add stones to make them exactly alike. These regulations should be attended to by travellers proceeding to the East, that they may arrange their luggage accordingly.

As the time drew near to my departure from Constantinople, I began to feel how much I had enjoyed my sojourn amongst eastern scenery, and how deep was my regret at quitting a country, with which so many interesting associations are connected, being so replete with romantic imagery.

Once more, at evening's close, I repaired to my favourite walk in the Petit Champ de Mort, where I could behold an expanded view of the setting sun, as it shed its parting rays on that splendid city, so long the proud throne of the Cæsars, and the sumptuous monument of oriental grandeur. I ever did admire the resplendent glories of a bright sunset, but none have I ever seen so magnificent as those, I have witnessed in the East, nor do I think that I have ever beheld any one, even in that glowing quarter of the world, so vivid as that at which I gazed on the eve of my departure; and it seemed, as it were, to deepen my regret at quitting, perhaps, for ever, scenes which presented so wonderful a spectacle of all that was picturesque and beautiful.

Stamboul did indeed then appear in all the perfection of its glory. Its gilded domes shone with all their dazzling brightness, illumined as they were by the red glare of an unusually lurid horizon; even the chaste pale minaret partook of the warm glow and beamed with a richer tint, harmonising with the radiance which the retiring orb had shed around. The heat *had* been exces-

sive, but the air oppressed no longer, and a dreaming sort of dizziness seemed to hover about the sunny atmosphere. I yielded to its power and lingered immoveably on so enchanting a spot, till the cannon's sound proclaimed the sun's farewell; and soon nature, as if to mourn its exit, assumed her mantle of grey, and though changed in garb was not less attractive.

The stillness of twilight *for me* ever had its charms, but in eastern climes all feel its mild and genial sway. It is true that Stamboul's towers shone no more; still they peered above the dark mass of roofs and walls over which the dusk of evening now had spread her veil, still there were images around which savoured of oriental realms. White veiled females were moving to and fro under the dark shades of the gloomy cypress, and seemed like spectres gliding amongst the tombs; turbans and flowing robes still added their picturesque folds: flocks of goats, following their wild looking herdsmen, and droves of buffaloes returning from their toil, all contributed to give interest to the scene. But as I saw one object after another gradually fade away, I felt the same melancholy as I have experienced in parting from a much loved friend.

At length night advanced, spreading her dark livery around, and wrapped creation in congenial gloom; and thus Constantinople, the gorgeous and proud fair queen of the east, I bid thee a sad and eternal adieu!

CHAPTER XIX.

TRAVELLING IN TURKEY—THE EQUIPMENTS NECESSARY—M. CASTELLI, MY COMPANION—ARRIVAL AT ST. STEPHANO—A BAD SHOT—AGREEMENT WITH THE TARTAR—ARRIVAL OF THE CHARGERS—DEPARTURE FROM ST. STEPHANO—A LOST PORTMANTEAU—EXPLORING RAMBLE—EXPENSES OF TRAVELLING IN TURKEY—MATTER OF FACT COMPANION—BUYING A TURKEY—M. CASTELLI PLAYS TRUANT—IS BROUGHT BACK AGAIN—POUTS AWHILE—ANCIENT REMAINS—CADI OF ADRIANOPLE AND SUITE—TREMENDOUS RAIN—A SCUFFLE—A JUDGMENT—CASTELLI'S ABILITIES—CAPTURE OF A HARE—HALFSHA—ADRIANOPLE—DETESTABLE QUARTERS—GREEK ARCHBISHOP'S PALACE—TOO WELL ATTENDED—CASTELLI, DEGRADING THE PALACE—SUPERB MOSQUE—THE SERAGLIO—MAKE SIGNS FOR DINNER—INTERVIEW WITH THE PACHA—HIS STUD—REPRIMAND TO OUR TARTAR—DINNER AT THE ENGLISH CONSUL'S—COMMERCE OF ADRIANOPLE.

A BRIGHT morning greeted me; and with Castelli, my fellow traveller, I proceeded to Galata, and after some ceremony with our effects at the custom-house, we conveyed ourselves and our luggage safely into a small boat, surrounded by a multitude of others.

We had procured all that we considered necessary for the long journey we were about to undertake; and for the information of future travellers, I shall state the detail of what it was deemed requisite our equipments should consist. Something to wrap yourself in is very useful, as hay or straw is often the only bed you will find. I bought a counterpane, and Castelli a small Persian carpet, very smart, and which quite shamed my humble wrapper. I purchased a second-hand French hussar saddle in one place, stirrups and holsters, in another, and got my pistols and their appendages put in good murderous order. Castelli had a gun of most elaborate workmanship; whether of a very destructive power or not, I never had an opportunity of ascertaining.

I had a large broad red sash which I was advised to bind round me as tightly as I could bear it, as soon as we took horse, as the trotting of the Turkish hacks is the roughest imaginable and, without some precautions, is enough in seven hundred miles to shake a man to atoms. Some brandy, of a most extraordinary quality, a friend of mine stuck in amongst my luggage; and Castelli had some superlatively fine rackee pressed

into his baggage. A strip of the hide of a rhinoceros was of ample service to me as a whip.

Castelli had provided himself very prudently with one article, in which he followed the example of many of the messengers, and most travellers that go such long journeys on horseback, a pair of doe-skin pantaloons, which, when the rough horses, bad roads, and long distance is considered, is by no means a bad precaution, and should be worn next the skin; but I, ever iron-hided, relied upon its native adamant, and made no alteration in my apparel.

We had a map of the countries we had to cross, but which we found by no means accurate. We ought to have each had a little bottle in a wicker case, which would have assisted us in quenching our thirst at the different streams we had to traverse. This omission I would advise other travellers not to make, as we often regretted it on our journey.

We soon distanced the capital, and as we lost sight even of its tallest minarets, hoping I had a congenial soul with me, I bid Castelli, like myself, to take one farewell look, ere its beauteous towers were totally screened from our view. "Yes, it's

very pretty," he replied, without looking towards it; "but I am thinking how much I spent yesterday, before it goes out of my mind."

Monsieur Castelli was a merchant of Genoa, a man of probity, possessing a good heart, and much respected by those who knew him; but he was not much troubled by an over vivid imagination, was a great admirer of all the solid advantages which this world can bestow, and cared very little about those ideal enjoyments which depend upon a refined taste, and can never be felt by any of those complete matter-of-fact sort of minds.

It had been arranged that we were first to proceed to St. Stephano, about ten miles from Constantinople; and there we were to pass the day with a Monsieur Lemoine, a French merchant, a friend of Castelli's, and the horses were ordered to be brought to us by the Tartar on the following morning. Our little bark made way in good style. Some object attracted my notice, and I remarked it to Castelli; but instead of looking at it, he said, very mournfully, "We had much better be thinking about our present situation, which is becoming very dangerous; the sea is dreadfully rough, and our crazy little nutshell of a boat can-

not stand long against it." It is true that the waves began to dip us a little, but there was nothing to excite alarm. However Castelli's countenance began to get more and more rueful; the corners of his mouth, which were naturally cocked up, as if they had an inclination to visit his eyes, began gradually to descend, till at last he twisted them down to such a degree, that he drew his mouth quite into the shape of a horseshoe, I could not resist it, and burst out a laughing, which set the boatmen grinning; whilst the look Castelli gave me was quite awful, observing, that if we were upset, perhaps I should laugh on the wrong side of my mouth.

However, we soon safely arrived at the jetty of St. Stephano, where we found M. Lemoine with servants, ready to receive us and our baggage. Castelli jumped on shore with much agility, and looked delighted at being once more on terra firma; the corners of his mouth resumed their wonted station, and he was once more in good humour with himself and all around him.

After paying our devoirs to Madame, we started for the purpose of exploring the town of St. Stephano and its vicinity, which I found totally barren

of interest. The Sultan has a small kiosk by the sea-side, which is as ugly as red tiles and flaring white walls can make it. For want of better attractions, we lounged into the billiard-room. I soon, however, quitted my companions, and made some sketches of the queer looking buildings of which the place was composed. M. Lemoine's family consisted of himself, his wife, and a little girl of about eight years old, who was the cause of my making rather a bad shot, remarking, how very much it resembled its father, imagining M. Lemoine to be such. But it appeared I had touched a tender chord, as the child was merely an adopted one, but which Monsieur and Madame wished to be thought their own, they having keenly felt the circumstance of their union not having been blest with offspring. They heard my remarks regarding the family likeness in silence, but Castelli, who was in the secret, though unknown to his friends, could scarcely refrain from laughing.

The next morning, soon after breakfast, the Tartar and surdjee appeared with the horses; and as the former was doomed to be our guide seven hundred miles, I must inform my readers some particulars concerning him. First, that he

bore the imposing name and title of Kouli Kapouli Hassan Aga, secondly, that he had been one of the Janissaries; and thirdly, that Mustapha assured me he was the worst Tartar upon the road: but when I received this information it was too late for remedy, M. Lemoine having already engaged the obnoxious old scoundrel, and much reason we had afterwards to repent such a selection.

We had agreed to give two thousand seven hundred piastres for being conveyed with our luggage to Belgrade, for which purpose we were to be furnished with six horses, and the whole of our expenses, both for their keep, and our own to be paid; to which a further condition was added, stating, that if we were thoroughly satisfied with the treatment we had received, we were to give a hundred more piastres by way of Bagshiesh, making the whole amount twenty-eight pounds, and this was so completely to clear us of every cost, that we were told we need not put our hands in our pockets for money until we had crossed the Danube and entered Semlin, the town opposite to Belgrade, in which we were to perform our quarantine; but we had not far to travel before we found we had been deceived on that score.

Our baggage arranged across the backs of our horses, and ourselves mounted on our chargers, we took leave of our hospitable host and family. Prior to starting, I made the agreement with the Tartar, that of the six horses that were to be provided, that I should always be allowed to take my choice, as, if you do not make this condition, the Tartar and the surdjee will take the two best, and this proved to be the case in the first outset; they had awarded me the best looking, and Castelli the worst, on which account we designated his palfrey, Rosinante. But all that glitters is not gold: I had not proceeded far before I found that I was on the veriest sluggard that ever crawled, and that Castelli's was by no means a bad goer. These horses were to take us to Adrianople, about four days' journey, where we were to receive others, and a different surdjee, which is the person who always accompanies the horses, and is synonymous with our postillion.

When we had ridden some miles, on stopping to refresh our horses, they brought us coffee; and often that beverage was presented to us without our dismounting, and frequently seven or eight times during the day. At a spot celebrated for its

bridges, known by the names of Ponte Grande and Ponte Piccolo, a most splendid view opened before us, presenting the sea of Marmora, and the most magnificent mountains, the scenery altogether being highly interesting. A place called Silivria struck me as very picturesque, having a sort of fort, situated in a most bold and imposing manner.

At dusk we came to a halt, at a small village, the name of which I forget, but think it was Pirodas. Of many others also I am in doubt, a deficiency that it is not in my power to rectify, having unfortunately had a portmanteau stolen in London, with all my memoranda, four years of journals, and nearly three hundred sketches, taken in different parts of the East: therefore the reader must pardon any inaccuracy which may appear in the names of persons and places, and attribute it to the right cause, which is, that I write from memory alone.

As soon as we had alighted, I proposed exploring the precincts of the locality in which we were to pass the night; but Castelli remonstrated most seriously against our leaving the khan in which we were quartered, saying, that if we shewed ourselves, it might give the idea to any robbers that

might be in the place, of way-laying and stopping us the next day, whereas if we stuck close to the horrible little room which was assigned us, the thieves would not know anything of our arrival or departure. Now this logic might be very wise, but it did not enter into my views, travelling as I did with the determination to see all within my reach;—therefore, forth I sallied; and Castelli, finding me inexorable, accompanied me, though grumbling all the way. Our rambles did not elicit anything very remarkable; but it was interesting to see the cottagers out before their doors, enjoying the fineness of the weather and the freshness of the evening. As we looked at them, they looked good naturedly at us again, smiling, and sometimes saying something, which we could not understand; but all seeming in perfect good humour, both with us and themselves, whilst they tasted the sweets of repose, reclining on the turf, after the heat and toil of the day. In fact, it was not possible to imagine any people having more appearance of quiet and simplicity than these poor peasants.

Night and darkness induced us to return to our quarters, where they had provided us with a very

passable supper, consisting of soup, a boiled fowl, and some eggs; after which, we had some grapes and coffee. Thus far, we had no reason to complain; but had already experienced several irresistible demands on our purses every time we dismounted. The man who holds your horse asks you for something, and it is disagreeable to refuse; whilst this happening several times a day, amounts in so long a journey to a sum which is worthy of being brought into calculation. There are other little expenses, which, though voluntary, cannot well be avoided; yet, with all united, it does not present a total which brings the cost of travelling in Turkey so dear, as in most other countries of Europe. A piastre each horse per hour is the regular price throughout the whole country, the hour meaning about four miles and a half.

At sunrise next morning, we started. I had already witnessed a sufficient display of Castelli's companionable powers, to prevent my forming any extravagant hopes of enjoyment for the future from his society; and by giving my readers a few specimens of our conversations, will leave them to judge for themselves of the colloquial abilities of my fellow-traveller.

Soon after our first starting, I observed a group of persons, and remarked to Castelli, how singularly picturesque were their costumes. "Yes," replied he, "but how does that interest us? All that we want is to advance on our journey." Another time, an opening of country expanded so magnificently before us, that a sudden exclamation burst forth from me on its beauties. "It may be very pretty," grumbled out Castelli, "but I wish we were over it, as then we should be that much over our journey!" In fact, it would be difficult to imagine a man, so completely dead to any feeling for aught which departed from commercial calculation.

With his usual arithmetical acumen, he had found out that the Tartar had paid fifteen piastres for ourselves and the horses at the khan. We were rather anxious on this point, having understood that the Tartars were much in the habit of mulcting the unfortunate beings on whom they quartered themselves, and those who were under their charge. But in this respect affairs are altered for the better, as formerly when a government Tartar appeared in a village, and gave a few cracks of his whip, the inhabitants were expected

to come to their doors with poultry, eggs, or, in fact, whatever their little store afforded, and what accommodations their houses would admit was proffered to the all redoubtable Tartar. However, we witnessed nothing of that kind in our progress, and considered what had been paid for our fare of the preceding night about a fair proportion, according to the prices of provisions current in the country.

As we jogged on this day, we perceived an immense black streak gradually taking possession of the brow of the hill. At first it had the appearance of a tremendously dark cloud advancing towards us; yet it soon became too opaque to be mistaken for anything unearthly as it approached, and proved to be the largest assemblage of turkeys I ever had seen collected together, resembling an immense black army. The Tartar wished to purchase one, and haggled a long time with the drivers in making a bargain. I know not why they imagined me a judge of those animals, but they brought the purchased victim to me to squeeze, to ascertain its degree of fatness, &c., and I having pronounced favourably, it was delivered into the custody of the surdjee, and honourably paid for. I

could just make out sufficient of the language to discover that eight piastres was the sum given, the Turkish word for eight being "*saykiss*," which the Turks articulate so distinctly, that it is exactly the same as an English person would pronounce the two words "say" and "kiss."

During the day we had an affair which much amused me, although it seriously irritated poor Castelli. He grew tired of the pace at which it pleased our guide (and master *pro tempore*) to proceed, and, in spite of my remonstrances, off he started at full gallop, but could not induce me to follow, as I had been cautioned by several messengers, who are principally the persons who travel the road from Constantinople to Belgrade, never to lose sight of the Tartar.

One gentleman informed me that it once happened to him, and in endeavouring to regain the party before him, he became lost and benighted in the forests of Servia. As his only hope, he fired his pistols, hoping the report might be heard by his companions; but finding they did not arrive, he made up his mind to sleep in a tree, as the only means of safety from the wolves, having been tracked and followed by one the night before for

a considerable distance, even after he had fired at it; he therefore, at any rate, feared, however he could secure himself, that his horse must become a prey to the wild prowlers of the forest. Fortunately for him his signal had been heard, and the Tartar, having been in search of him, was directed to the identical spot by the sound.

I related this anecdote to Castelli, but in vain. However, when he was nearly out of sight, the surdjee delivered over the baggage horses to the Tartar, and set off after the runaway. When he came up with Castelli, the only method of making him understand he must turn back, was by taking hold of the bridle of his horse, which the surdjee did; but the refractory Genoese refusing to comply, both dismounted, and looked at each other, as far as I could judge from the distance, not very amicably, at least on the part of Castelli, who at last came back very sulkily, vowing that the surdjee had drawn his dagger, and threatened to use it, in order to intimidate him, and Castelli declared that as soon as we arrived at Adrianople he would have the surdjee bastinadoed, expressing tremendous indignation at having been brought back in

so ignominious a manner, finishing with a favourite exclamation of "*Quelle indignité.*"

The reason of the Tartar sending after Castelli was, that we were going to turn off by a bridle road, which our Tartar was rather too fond of, as he often took us over the most horrible places, sometimes through sloughs and water up to the calves of our legs as we sat on our horses, and others where our poor beasts had continually to climb over stones, nearly as high as a table, to the great danger of our animals' knees, and our own necks.

Since Castelli had been like a naughty boy fetched away from playing truant, decided war had been declared between him and the Tartar, who with innumerable grimaces and gesticulations endeavoured to convince the discontented fugitive that we must always keep together. As to the dreadful dagger, with which the surdjee had so terrified Castelli, it certainly was not of a very alarming character. Asking the surdjee to let me look at it, he very good-naturedly gave it me to examine. I found it most to resemble a little pair of curling tongs, the use of which I afterwards

discovered was to put a little bit of fire into his pipe to light the tobacco it might contain.

We slept at night at a place whose name, my readers really must excuse me for having nearly forgotten, but I believe it was Chorlou, which, although merely a small village, whilst exploring it, Castelli and I found some remains of pillars, and pieces of entablature of beautiful workmanship strewed indiscriminately all over the place, a blacksmith having his anvil supported on a most magnificent capital of a Corinthian pillar. As we were rambling about, some women took us for doctors, and came out of a cottage making signs to us to come in, and examine a patient. Although not a medical man, I wished to gratify the poor people by going in, but Castelli very judiciously over-ruled me by observing that it might be the plague. We therefore retired to our khan, and supped on our turkey, from which they had made, as usual soup, and boiled it perhaps more than an epicure would approve.

Cushions were provided for us on which we were to sleep, one as a pillow for the head, the other to lie upon, but which are never longer than to reach to the knees. I seldom liked the looks

of them, and had a great dread for fear they might be inhabited, therefore I generally called for hay or straw as being more likely to be clean and unencumbered with offensive animalculæ. Next morning they provided us a most plentiful supply of *café au lait*, and when we started Castelli had got over his ill humour.

After we had passed a place called Karistran, rather a large village, we had not proceeded very far before we came up with the Cadi of Adrianople, who, having just received the appointment, was proceeding to that city to enter on the functions of his office. His suite was very numerous, most picturesque and interesting. The horsemen had quite the chivalrous air of knights of old. Their rich draperies, and the glowing colours of their vests and robes, as they wound their way along the road, gave much animation to the scene. There were besides several carriages filled with females, one of whom was the Cadi's daughter; sweeter expression, and finer features than hers, I never beheld in any countenance. As the curtains of her araba were open, we had a good sight of her, and I could scarcely gaze upon any thing else but her

enchanting physiognomy. I should think she was about fourteen.

We all come to a halt at a bridge, and most of the party dismounted, and standing by their richly caparisoned steeds, or seated in groups upon the grass, they formed the most interesting picture that can be imagined. The Cadi himself was a remarkably handsome man. His was the beau idéal of the eastern countenance, that clear olive complexion not known in other climes, the eyes dark and expressive, and the mouth so fraught with that calm dignity so frequently found in the oriental physiognomy. I was preparing to take a rude sketch of the picturesque group before me, but the darkening sky, and a few warning drops, induced us to mount, and in a minute or two all were cloaked and prepared for the threatened shower.

And sure enough it menaced not in vain, as such a rain as that which poured down upon us on that day, I never before witnessed. It come down in streams or rather in columns, each as thick as though poured from a tea-pot. I could not help observing the totally unchanged expression of the Turks, whilst they were receiving so tremendous a duck-

ing. Even the Cadi looked as dignified as ever, nor moved a muscle of his face. His son, a boy of about eleven years of age, as he sat on his spirited little palfrey, appeared perfectly undisturbed, although the rain was almost strong enough to knock him off his horse.

At last we all arrived in a complete deluge at a village, called Yunaquiee, and I hope my readers will give me great credit for remembering its name. Some of the Cadi's suite had preceded us, and taken possession of a room which the Tartar thought would be better occupied by us; and he was proceeding very unceremoniously to clear out the effects, which were already stowed in the apartment, when his operations were checked by main force, the first occupant insisting on priority of right. A trial of strength took place, in which the Tartar, being old, was compelled to yield to the superior physical power of a lusty young fellow, whilst Castelli and I could be only spectators, not liking to assist, with brute force, certainly in what might be considered an unjust cause.

The Tartar calling out for a firman, I produced mine, which appeared to have much effect on the landlord, and the point certainly would have been

unjustly decided in our favour, but the Cadi arriving at that moment his judgment was appealed to, and he, like a second Solomon and an upright magistrate, confirmed the right of the first possessors.

Castelli was somewhat annoyed at seeing our effects turned out, and could not help exclaiming "*Quelle indignité;*" but another room being speedily arranged for our reception, he was in some measure consoled. We were as wet as it was possible for water to make us, not only to the skin, but I could almost say to the bone. Castelli set to work immediately unpacking his trunk, and, undressing, changed everything; but I was far too lazy to take that trouble, and too anxious to look about, to go through any such tedious operation, notwithstanding the long lecture I had from Castelli, about imprudence, laying oneself up, duty to one's family, &c. &c. After an hour's halt we again started, the rain having somewhat abated, and passed over a barren, and uninteresting part of the country, and at night arrived at a place called Bourgas where Castelli displayed considerable ingenuity in getting up lines across the room, in which we were quartered, to hang our wet clothes

upon, and if he had been brought up a washer-woman all his life he could not have done it more cleverly.

He was inclined to avail himself of the cushions provided for us to sleep upon, but I recommended him to substitute hay or straw, observing with all our precautions, I feared we should not be able to keep entirely free from certain troublesome company. To which Castelli replied that he would not answer for me, but for himself that he was sure no such filthy things would ever settle upon him, that his habits were too cleanly; wondering how I could suppose he could ever be brought to such a degraded state. "*Quelle indignité*," added he to imagine such a thing. I therefore pressed the subject no farther, leaving him wrapped up with the idea that he was too dignified a personage for the obnoxious little insects to take any liberties with.

The next morning we found the air much cooler, to me a great relief; the heat of the sun having burnt a sore place on my cheek, on which the insects came and banquetted, much to their joy, no doubt, and to my annoyance. When the rain came at first, I thought it quite refreshing; and

so hot was my face, that I fancied it quite hissed when the drops fell upon it.

We had the luck to take a hare, *en passant*, with the assistance of some dogs, and saw a most beautiful tortoise, which we closely examined as it crawled its weary way along the road. We reposed at a place called Eckie Baba, with a pretty mosque having a very remarkable porch, of which I took a sketch whilst our horses were baiting. Towards afternoon Castelli's horse came down, and sent his unlucky rider sprawling on the ground; and though I was sorry for it, yet his exclamation recurred to my mind as I saw him rolling in the dust: "*Quelle indignité*," thought I to myself. He really was much hurt in the mouth, the head, and the breast; his murmurs were both loud and incessant, whilst his lips once more twisted themselves into the form of a horse-shoe.

The great danger of the long journeys in this country is the horse's coming down, which happened to a friend of mine nine different times, in his progress from Constantinople to the borders of Persia; and as there are no means of procuring medical aid, a fallen horse is often the cause of its rider's meeting a painful death. Castelli's mis-

fortune spoiled his taste for riding any more that day; we, therefore, stopped at a very picturesque village called Halfsha, of which I had the opportunity of taking a very exact drawing. It had remains which indicated former wealth and grandeur, having several handsome stone buildings half ruined, and having a most picturesque effect.

Next morning, by daylight, we were *à cheval;* and as we passed between the abundant vineyards we were profusely supplied from them with most magnificent bunches of grapes, by persons passing along the road. The high cultivation and extreme fertility of the country, as we approached Adrianople, indicated the vicinity of a large town. Amongst other fruits which I observed as being very plentiful, was the medlar; perhaps I never saw such a number before. Figs, mulberries, olives, and other fruit trees, were all crowded together in the vineyards, the tendrils of the vines climbing their stems.

At length we arrived at the far-famed Adrianople. Long straggling streets, strange outlandish looking houses, occasional bits of ruins, with groups of figures in all the queer fantastic costumes that fancy could devise, formed the chief

characteristics of the city. Arriving at so large a place, we hoped we should be assigned superior quarters to those in which we had generally been stowed; what, therefore, was our disappointment when we were shown into a miserable chamber, the walls of which were only mud or clay, without either paint, paper, or plaster to profane the natural purity of the virgin earth with which our room was floored and enclosed. Poor Castelli looked ruefully round it, and then, with a deeply-drawn sigh, exclaimed, "*Mon Dieu, quelle indignité!* —to be stowed in such a disgraceful hole as this!"

It was, indeed, almost like being buried alive to be enclosed thus between four earthen walls. The idea seemed to make Castelli absolutely shudder; and having letters to the Pacha of Adrianople, he suggested that we should request his interference in assigning us better quarters. Accordingly, we posted off *instanter* to the pacha; and though we could not obtain an interview with his highness that day, it was promised for the next; and we had a long conference with his secretary, who had obtained orders from the pacha to lodge us at the Greek archbishop's palace, whither we most joyfully repaired, bag and baggage. This was, indeed,

a change; the apartments assigned us being far more sumptuous than we required.

It was a queer place; consisting of spacious halls, long corridors, strange heavy staircases, chapels, galleries, long windows, gloomy cloisters, and hollow echoes resounded at every tread as one stepped along. But the most remarkable were our attendants: of all the sunken-cheeked, yellow-faced, black-bearded, sepulchral-looking wretches I ever beheld, the quizzes who were selected to wait upon us at the archiepiscopal palace, were certainly of the most superlatively cadaverous aspect that ever crossed my path. There might be six or seven of them, and they were so officious in their zeal to serve us, that there was no getting rid of them.

Castelli going out on some commercial affairs, I had the full benefit of all those sanctified and unearthly-looking demons, who, although I gave them very significant looks, to make them understand that I wished they would make themselves scarce, and, to make my desires more evident, I began to undress—still, to my great annoyance, they would take no hint. As no man is more fond of privacy than myself during the operations

of the toilet, I have often wondered how any one could endure a valet de chambre: the idea of a he-fellow pawing about me was always most execrable. The grim spectres of the palace, instead of getting out of the way, stuck so close to me that I had hardly elbow room for shaving; and one monster poked his head over my shoulder, so near to my razor that, with a *coup de main*, I might have cut his nose off; but with a flourishing whisk of the sharp operator, I did contrive to send a portion of the lather on his dark beard, which had a good effect, as they immediately all retired to a more respectful distance; and by the sensation which the event appeared to create, I verily believe that they thought the soap and water had some defiling property.

It was quite amusing to observe their intense curiosity in examining every article appertaining to the dressing table; my soap, my brushes, my shaving material, all went through the closest inspection, and were handed from one to another as objects of intense wonder. I had no sooner finished the operation of cleansing and beautifying than Castelli came in, and I recounted to him my *embarras* in having to go through all my

arrangements of toilet before so many spectators; and he quite ridiculed my delicacy in not having at once shown them to the door, and, without any ceremony, bundled them all out of the room. This I could not have done, as we were always uncertain whether they were servants or an inferior order of priests.

Castelli's next act quite astounded me, and proved his uncompromising audacity. He routed out all his wet clothes, which were not even yet dry, and hung them at the windows, and when I saw his wet nether garments adorning the residence of the archbishop, I thought it was his turn to call out "*Quelle indignité!*" as it must have been very mortifying to his *grace* to see such a *disgrace* put upon his palace as to have it converted into the appearance of an old clothes shop. Nothing, in my opinion, could be more indecorous; but Castelli was a man who did not stand for trifles when his convenience was at stake.

We occupied the rest of the day in viewing the lions of Adrianople, Mr. Kerr, the English consul, having been kind enough to lend us his janissary, who acted as guide, and a fine dashing-looking fellow he was. He took us to the mosque, and a

most magnificent one it is, but much in the same style as all the others. In the middle a chrystal fountain was flowing, and never in my life did I more enjoy a draught than the one which on that day I drank from its pure stream. The ceremony of taking off one's boots, or putting any thing over them, was dispensed with. In fact, the janissary appeared to be a sort of commander-in-chief, who did as he liked, and under his wing we did the same.

I ascended one of their lofty minarets, which Castelli and the janissary declined, on account of the immense fatigue of mounting such a tremendous number of steps; but I was well rewarded when at the top, having a wonderfully extensive view of the surrounding country, which presented a wide tract of cultivated land, minarets here and there indicating the numerous villages with which the plains were studded.

We next went to see the Seraglio, or Sultan's Palace, separated from the city by a river called the Arda, and at present unoccupied. It was rich, some parts of it gaudy, and displaying much labour: on the whole interesting, but very queer. The walls of one room were entirely covered with

Dutch tiles. We afterwards prowled about the city, passed some time in the bazaars, which are very extensive, and abundantly supplied with commodities of every description.

Adrianople is a town of most singular appearance. Some even of the streets extremely picturesque, and so unlike any thing that one sees in civilized Europe, that it must be highly interesting to any person not accustomed to see Turkish towns. There are very fine barracks here, as is usually the case in large cities in Turkey. There are several other buildings, some of which have an antique appearance, which attract the eye of an artist; and he who is fond of sketching would find inexhaustible subjects for his pencil.

At last we bent our weary way to our quarters; and not having had any thing to eat since the grapes in the morning, we were furiously hungry, and made signs to our solemn long-robed attendants that we wanted food, to which they bowed acquiescently, from which we inferred that something was preparing; but it was nearly seven o'clock before the repast was ready, which, when it did come, consisted of many more dishes than we

cared for, and was served up on plate in a very costly style.

After our dinner we very soon retired much fatigued to beds, which were prepared upon the sofas which surrounded our apartment. The next day, at the hour appointed, we paid our visit to the Pacha, who received us most graciously. His features were perfectly handsome; in fact, it was impossible to imagine a finer head than his, but his figure was fat and heavy. We had a long interview of above an hour. He is called Mustapha Pacha, and has since, I understand, been made Grand Vizier. Our conversation was carried on by the means of an interpreter, and was almost wholly occupied by the Pacha's asking me every particular concerning the breeding and rearing of horses in England; whilst he seemed to devour with avidity every detail that I could give him respecting the various races, prices, and, in fact, every *minutia* that could possibly relate to a horse. He appeared to have a great longing for an English charger; but when I told him what would be the expense, he was quite astounded. He lived in a very large palace, having lots of long passages, great comfortless rooms, some few

of which were tolerably decent, particularly that in which he received us, which was very handsomely carpeted, besides having some very curious mattings on parts of the floor, for which they are very famous; many rooms are entirely covered with them in the summer time. They are made of a very thin kind of cane, and are much cooler than any description of carpeting.

During our audience with the Pacha, besides the interpreter, his secretary and doctor were present; the latter was a Spaniard, but had passed most of his life in the East, and was married to a Greek lady. Both the gentlemen invited us for the evening; but we had already engaged ourselves to the English consul. There appeared to be the same hospitality at Adrianople, from Europeans to Europeans, so prevalent at Smyrna and Constantinople.

After having taken leave of the Pacha, we went to see his stud, consisting of about a hundred and fifty horses; some amongst them were most beautiful creatures: all the finest were Arabians: the greater number were for the saddle; but some were for his carriages. One of his horses the Pacha had mentioned to us, as being a great

favourite, though now twenty years of age, and would take a pinch of snuff and smoke a pipe. We saw this extraordinary animal: it was a fine milk white steed; and witnessed its taking the pinch of snuff, or rather the receiving it, as the man put it in one nostril, it immediately turned up the other for some more, at the same time by whinnying, expressing its satisfaction.

As we had not felt satisfied with our Tartar, we had him before the secretary of the Pacha, expressing a hope that, for the future, he would provide us with better horses, and that he would not leave the high road and take us through such dangerous places; and what we found so brutal on his part was, that after he and the surdjee had, with the greatest difficulty, got through some of those quagmires, or precipitous descents over large stones, steps, &c.,—that he never stopped, or once looked back to see how we got over them, but left us to our fate, as if he had nothing to do with us.

To all these accusations he replied with great humility; vowing that he had been more like our servant than our Tartar, assisting us morning and night in packing and unpacking,—which was by no

means an occupation incumbent on him, but entirely voluntary on his part,—and that for the future we should have no reason to complain of the horses with which he should furnish us, (oh! the lying old scoundrel!) and many other promises for the time to come, so that even Castelli appeared softened towards him, and to think he was very sincere in all he professed.

At five o'clock we repaired to Mr. Kerr's, where we had engaged to dine; and certainly we did ample justice to his good cheer. Whether it was that we had not breakfasted, nor even tasted any food during the whole day, busied in our explorings, or any other cause, but certainly I never remember to have enjoyed a dinner more than that of Mr. Kerr's. I have often heard people say you cannot get good meat except in England, and in different countries great complaints are made of the food; but I have found that, when one dines with liberal and hospitable people, in every part in which I have travelled, one always finds as good a dinner as a man ought to desire.

In the evening some European gentlemen came, and a few hours passed very pleasantly; but having several commissions to execute, we were

obliged to quit our kind host earlier than we could have wished, and could not help regretting that any one so well informed, and in every respect so thoroughly constituted for society, should be buried in such a place as Adrianople, where there are so few civilized beings. Besides himself and two other consuls, there are very few European merchants. I could only hear of a Mr. Belhomme, to whom I had a letter from Mr. Churchill, and a Mr. Schnell, an anglicised German, whose family I had known at Smyrna, but who was absent from Adrianople the few days I was there,—and who were generally accustomed to assemble of an evening at Mr. Kerr's. In addition to the above, there were several Greek and Armenian merchants; the greater part of the commerce is now getting into the hands of the natives.

Some of the consuls are permitted to trade; and the Sardinian was considered as having an establishment and an appointment which kept up the credit of his country, and gave him a conspicuous position in the society of Adrianople. Neither I, nor Castelli, though a Sardinian subject, had letters to him; therefore, we had not an opportunity of seeing him; but heard

him favourably mentioned; and I usually found, throughout the East, that the consuls of Sardinia, for so small a power, are most liberally paid, and are generally persons who do honour to their nation. The produce of Adrianople consists of corn, wool, and silk; and its vines are rather celebrated. Numbers of hare-skins are sent from this place. It is also famous for its essence of roses, which, with oil and fruit, form the principal articles of its commerce.

CHAPTER XX.

DEPARTURE FROM ADRIANOPLE—FERTILITY OF THE COUNTRY —CARAVANSERA—QUARREL BETWEEN CASTELLI AND THE TARTAR—PERSONAL DESCRIPTION OF THE TARTAR AND HIS COSTUME—HIS DIGNITY OFFENDED—PLEASING COUNTRY— PHILIPOPOLI—TURKISH GOOD-HUMOUR—TARTAR BAZARJEKI —DETESTABLE ROAD—CHANGING OF STEEDS—ASCENT OF THE BALKAN—EXTRAORDINARY CUSTOM—MOST BEAUTIFUL SCENERY—PRECIPITOUS PASS—RICH FOLIAGE—SPLENDID EFFECTS OF ROCKS AND TREES — SUMMIT OF THE BALKAN —DESCENT—INTIMAN — COSTUME OF BULGARIAN GIRLS— SOPHIA—QUEER HORSE—ALKALI—THE VILLAGERS—COMICAL CONCERT.

THE following morning we were rather retarded by their not bringing the horses till late; and when they did, I was much irritated by finding they had all six broken knees, the sure symptom that they were given to stumbling. Thus much for the penitence of the Tartar for his former conduct, and his promises for the future. We would not mount our steeds until we were fairly out of the city, the pavement being so break-neck; and but little dependence could be placed on our horses keeping their legs over such holes and large stones.

The country continued fertile for some distance, and we met the largest drove of cattle I had ever seen; it lasted some miles: the beasts were small compared with ours, and mostly grey and white, with horns very perpendicular; I should think there were some thousands of them; in fact, we had observed in all the villages that we had been through, an appearance of plenty. The cultivation only extending as it were in patches round a town or hamlet, although it confirmed the general observation that the Turks do not much care to till the land very extensively, on account of the government fixing the price on the produce, and other obnoxious laws, yet it was very evident there was always a sufficiency. I do not remember ever observing any striking feature of misery, nor could we ever see any handsome houses in the country which indicated superior wealth in one than in another, and these remarks we found applicable to the whole of Romelia.

The caravanseras are an extraordinary establishment. They are immense buildings, generally with one large dome in the middle, and a smaller one at the extremity of either wing: within there

is room for a considerable number of persons and their horses. They are open gratis to every traveller; there is a recess for each man, whereupon to spread his bedding, and standing room for his horse. According to the old Mahomedan law, wherever there was a mosque there should be a caravansera. There is no other country which has such hospitable institutions as that of affording shelter to horse and man of every nation, without requiring pay: unfortunately, the decay of these noble buildings has kept pace with the progress of civilization: we found most of them in ruins, which rendered them much more picturesque, but much less serviceable.

Perhaps the first cause of their decline was the decreasing wealth of the Ottoman empire not allowing the funds sufficient to keep such gigantic edifices in repair. But what wonderful monuments must the caravanseras be considered of the former power, and riches of the Turkish government, that their resources would admit of their constructing such numbers of erections so colossal, of which the cost must have been so immense.

We stopt at a place called Hebipce, and slept at Hermanle. On our rising the next morning,

Castelli and the Tartar looked all bitterness at each other; the former had sung out for the latter as usual, to help in packing up our things: in the first place, the Tartar did not immediately come; secondly, when he did, his arrangements did not please Castelli, who kept every instant calling out "Tartar!" till he was so irritated, that in mockery he imitated Castelli's manner, calling out, "Tartar! Tartar! Tartar!" grinning most furiously, and making quite a demoniac grimace, which put Castelli in such a tremendous rage, that he, in his turn, not only gnashed his teeth, and returned grimace for grimace, but was on the point of striking the Tartar, when I prevented him, on which he exclaimed, "But is it to be borne, must I submit to be mocked by such a wretch as that?"—"*Oh mon Dieu, quelle indignité*," ejaculated poor Castelli, from the bottom of his heart, as he mounted his horse quite in dudgeon.

The country was occasionally very pretty, and we passed through a number of small villages, the names of which have escaped me, (except Haschiou, where I took a view of the mosque), nor would they perhaps have afforded very much interest to my readers if I remembered them. Things had a very

cheerful aspect, and the distance was bounded by the mountains of the Balkan, which had for several days been towering and frowning before us. Our road sometimes twisted about in so comical a manner, that we occasionally found ourselves turning our backs on the very place to which we were going, nor could we find any reason for these circuitous routes.

Our Tartar was certainly one of the most grotesque figures I ever saw, either in real life or in picture. On his head he wore the fesse, round which he bundled several handkerchiefs, of different patterns: his beard was a whitish grey; the colour of his face much the same, only having a little yellow mixed with it: his nose was very singular; it was rather beyond the usual size, but the rise was in the wrong place; instead of being at the bridge, it was much nearer the tip which was hooked; his sunken eyes were very small, and, though light, twinkled with uncommon sharpness from beneath remarkably protruding grey eyebrows.

He wore a blue jacket, a red sash, and a sort of green fostanella over a pair of large full short trowsers; but his boots were the most curious, as they

were turned down with two immense large white flaps, which were embroidered with different colours. He was not without ornament, as he had his pistols, his poniard, and his yatagan; when he was not smoking, he used to stick his long pipe down his back slanting, so that the bowl of it remained generally about a foot higher than his head; he had yet another appendage, which was very useful, and consisted of a little square leather cup, which folded quite flat when empty, and from this he and the surdjee used to drink at almost every stream they came to.

To add to the uncouth appearance of the Tartar, he was a little humpy, and as he sat upon his horse, he always inclined his head to the right shoulder; and his pipe sticking out from the left, he presented the most ludicrous figure that can be imagined. His saddle was padded, so as to be quite soft, besides which he had the skin of some species of sheep thrown over it, with the wool outwards; but he certainly stuck to his horse exactly as if he was a piece of it. His countenance had a wicked sort of cunning expression, and his smile had a leer that was perfectly satanic. Perhaps I am rather ungrateful to the old boy to be thus severe

upon him, as he took me under his most especial protection, as a sort of set-off against his bitterness to Castelli, who certainly often found fault with him unjustly; when the old man would turn to me, saying, "Aiee, aiee," meaning that I was good, for although I scolded him sometimes, yet I believe he considered that I did so only when he deserved it.

At last he contrived to make us understand that it was rather an indignity to be called Tartar, and that for the future we were to address him by his name Hassan, in which we indulged him. The heat was excessive, and our thirst in proportion; and though we had observed that we should not much like to drink out of the Tartar's leather cup, yet, for want of anything else, the intensity of my thirst drove me to it; for which Castelli quizzed me most unsparingly, wondering how I could condescend to drink after such a vile old wretch, adding, with a smile, "*Quelle indignité.*" There was something so irresistible in Castelli's good-humoured countenance when he was pleased, that I could stand his quizzing. I liked to see the corners of his mouth rather twist up to his eyes, than curl down to his chin, and was happy to give him an oppor-

tunity; whilst he very soon afforded me the means of retaliating upon himself, as the want of some beverage so completely overcame his scruples, that he was glad to have recourse to the despised leathern cup, declaring that his principal motive in doing so, was that he might put himself on a level with me, that one might not be able to laugh at the other.

We stopped at a village called Mustapha Pacha, where I took a sketch, as I had already done every time our horses were baiting, much to the annoyance of Castelli, who was always afraid that the Turks should take umbrage at my drawing their mosques, &c., but I never found them disposed to molest me; and even when they perceived that I was sketching themselves, they have generally laughed, and never shown any symptoms of repugnance.

Castelli amused himself by writing out our expenses, and registering the different distances from one place to another, laying great stress upon the usefulness of his occupation, and the uselessness of mine. I encouraged him in his task, as it saved me the trouble; knowing that when we were in quarantine, I could copy from his minutes.

Our journey, as far as regarded the country, continued agreeable, occasionally wood, hills, plains, and villages, of which we passed through many; amongst others, Chermenli and Usumchobi, rather larger than the rest. At times we had an insipid country, low and flat, and not teeming with cultivation. It had sometimes a cheerless aspect; but, on the whole, I should say that Roumelia, the ancient Thrace, was an interesting country to a traveller.

At length we arrived at the curious town of Philipopoli, situated on the Maritza, the same river which runs through Adrianople, and of which the Artee is a branch. Philipopoli is an ancient town: the houses are mostly of wood, and are mean-looking, the streets narrow, and badly paved; yet is it full of the picturesque, and everywhere presenting subjects for an artist. The style of building is so old fashioned, so grotesque, and unlike anything else I had ever seen, that I could have imagined myself in another world.

There is a wooden bridge with rails, and posts with bits of wood patched to them of different colours, that one might suppose to be the work of savages, so rude is it, and devoid of form, regu-

larity, or aught that has a civilized aspect. There appeared to be many Greek inhabitants; and the only thing that I ever heard that the town was famous for, was soap.

They gave us a queer kind of meal, the greater part of which appeared to me to consist of boiled leeks; but latterly the Tartar got more stingy, and our fare was very poor. Rice there always was, which I never could bear, coffee and eggs, but no more poultry; and what bits of meat there might be, were very queer and indescribable.

We were much amused at meeting the caravans; they ever had an interesting appearance. The horsemen had a bold and gallant look; and always in passing, waved their hands, and called "Ooral-lah! Oorallah!" or "God be with you;" and looking all kindness and good-humour.

The long chain of the Balkan mountains still appeared to hang over us; but though we approached them nearer, in fact, still we could not get up with them. We at last were completely benighted, and both Tartar and surdjee appeared to have lost their way, as we had often to turn back, and at last to pass through water, bogs, and mud, from which our horses had great difficulty to

extricate themselves. The gates, dome, and minaret of Tatar Bazarjik were long before us, ere we could reach it, which we at last effected in the dark about ten o'clock.

Although it proved to be a large town, our old wretch of a Tartar vowed there was nothing to be got for our supper, and stuck us down to rice, coffee, and eggs, and even declared that there were no grapes to be had, which had often solaced me when I could get nothing else. The bread of the country we could not eat, and what we had brought with us from Constantinople had become so dry that we could not bite it. For my part it appeared to me that I was poisoned with the coffee and eggs: so completely was I surfeited with them, that I perversely went to bed without eating anything.

The next day we found Tatar Bazarjik to be a town of more importance than we had imagined. As we advanced, our anxiety to mount the far famed Balkan increased: however we yet had several halts to make before the ascent was to take place. They have a singular custom in this part of the world, after you arrive and have dismounted, they walk the horses slowly round a

circle for about ten minutes before they put them in the stable: doubtless the motive is to cool the cattle gradually.

Their mode of shoeing their horses generally in the East in my opinion is bad; the shoe is one even plate, and being so smooth a plane the animal is much more liable to slip and stumble, than if he were shod according to the method prevalent in most other countries. As the Turks ride with a very loose bridle, they found fault with my keeping too tight a hand upon my horse; but I contrived to keep all the horses I rode throughout the journey, which were as many as eighteen, always on their legs through the horrible roads and byepaths we had to traverse, whilst I saw those who let the bridle be much slacker come down, when I think they might have prevented it, if they had had more hold of their horse's head.

Poor Castelli, who was always dissatisfied every time we had any change of cattle, always vowed that he had the roughest horse. The fact was, he was no equestrian, and neither knew how to sit close upon a hard trotter, nor to go his own motion, or what they call, on the Continent, *à l'Anglaise*. Therefore, seeing me less shaken about

than himself, we had no sooner ridden a league than he began to grumble that I had the smoothest going horse. I used always, in these cases, to indulge him by changing horses; and sometimes, I believe, he regretted the exchange we had made.

We began the ascent of the Balkan where it rises very gradually, and after mounting a short distance it descends again, though perhaps less abruptly. We continued this up-hill and down-hill work till we arrived at a village called Yanaquiee, which is situated some way up the Balkan: although in the middle of fertility, and amongst plenty of trees.

At this village, for the first time, we met with a young woman, who had her hair arranged as a tail, threading pieces of money strung so closely together that the edges alone were visible. This tail reached nearly to her feet, and was of immense weight. She permitted me to examine it; and I found it composed of coins of many nations: Turkish piastres were the most numerous, many florins, some francs, and three English shillings. How she ever came by them I cannot imagine. She was a decent young woman of the higher peasant class. She also wore festoons of coins on her

forehead, and a necklace similarly composed. I have understood that the money which the girls wear in this country in the manner stated above, is their dowry.

As we proceeded farther up the Balkan, or rather along it, as we crossed it in a slanting direction, I was much pleased with the wonderful variety of passes, rocks, and various descriptions of scenery which it presented. In many parts foliage was by no means wanting, but, on the contrary, in some places, the Balkan displayed the most rich and extraordinary variety of plants. In such an immense mass of mountains, of course numerous hollows and valleys were formed, which still were comprehended in the great chain of those gigantic eminences which compose the Balkan. It was impossible to form any idea of aught more beautiful than some of these dells. High trees spring from the lower part, whilst from the higher, the richest variety of shrubbery shoots forth, and, borne down by the weight of their own luxuriance, fall in fine masses till they are lodged on the summits of the trees beneath them, forming the wildest umbrageous bowers that the most imaginative fancy could create.


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It was in the last days of September that we passed through these enchanting scenes; and all the autumnal tints were beaming in their richest glow: some leaves there were of the deepest crimson colour, whether naturally so or from decay I know not, but they had the freshest appearance, and the stalks of these plants being as red as the foliage, I believe that tint to have been spontaneous in their nature. The wild clematis grew in immense profusion; as also other shrubs of a drooping character, producing natural arbours of the most fantastic description. Such an extraordinary and beautiful combination of trees, rocks, plants, hill and dale, I never before beheld.

One point we came to, which was, indeed, most awfully sublime. Contemplating so many beautiful objects, I had rather lingered behind; and as I rejoined the party I found Castelli pausing in a part of the road which was on the brink of a precipice. The pathway was not above a foot broad,—indeed I do not think it was so much, and was rather sloping, consequently was extremely dangerous. Castelli refused to proceed, in spite of the signs which the Tartar made for

him to advance. He was close behind Castelli, who was already on too narrow a space to turn his horse round; and who was thinking of dismounting, when a severe cut from the Tartar's whip, across the hind-quarters of Castelli's horse, settled the question, as it sprang forward, and fortunately passed the dangerous point harmlessly. The Tartar followed, and next the surdjee, after which the baggage horses, who had great difficulty in passing; the second made a slight slip, and would infallibly have been lost, had it not been chained to the horse preceding it, who, feeling a jerk produced by the slipping of the other, sprang forward, and by that means saved its companion from being precipitated to the bottom of the gulph below.

One of the American missionaries informed me, that he once saw a baggage-horse fall under similar circumstances, from an immense height, into a torrent that was gushing amongst the rocks at the bottom of the abyss. The guides and parties to whom the horse and baggage belonged gave it up as totally lost, making no exertions to save either it or the effects.

I followed the baggage horses; and as soon as I had passed the extreme danger, I insisted upon stopping awhile, that I might contemplate the grandeur of the scene beneath my feet. The effect was magnificently sublime, as seen by looking down into the ravine below. The depth was tremendous; but the mountains on either side were shrouded with trees and shrubs, presenting all the rich reds, yellows, and browns, in which the autumnal season is so prolific, and varied with the deep evergreens, which occasionally showed their dark branches amongst the warmer tints of such leaves, as had changed their gayer summer hues, for the more picturesque and variegated colours which so enrich the woods; when their foliage seeming, as it were, to assume a farewell garb, announce their approaching fall.

At the lowest depths, amid the darkest shades, the silver sparkle of rushing water was seen as it hurried by, along its rocky bed, a mere mountain stream, almost hidden by the masses of plants and boughs of the numerous trees which twined their branches together, and formed a canopy above the brook, which ran its chequered course as through

a sheltering bower. How beautiful is it to look down upon the tops of trees, and to hear the sound of waters bubbling beneath their round and massive clumps!

The variety of rock in the Balkan forms another feature of its beauties; and as I gazed on these sublime objects, I could not but reflect how puny are the works of art, and into what insignificance falls all landscape architecture wrought by the hands of man, compared to these wild untutored beauties, where nature spreads forth her treasures in rich profusion: there is sublimity in her rudeness, grandeur in her irregularity, boldness in her outline, however rugged it may be. How much more imposing are her broad masses when unspoiled by human toil, when uncramped by artificial aid, or narrowed into uniformity! And such is the Balkan; and had I but the time at command, there would I pass months at some of its humble villages, and roam about its ravines, its groves, its passes, and its summit. And what ample food for study is presented by the Balkan for the geologist or the botanist! How much more interesting are scenes such as these than

the usual haunts of men, who pass but from one crowded throng to meet another, and ever seek their recreation in a mob.

At length we reached the summit of the Balkan, on which stands the ruins of an immense archway, built by the Romans. What is left of it is picturesque, and sufficient to denote its altitude. It is built of a small red brick, so much in use about that period, which one finds wherever any relics of those days are extant. The Turks have an Albanian guard established at this place. Their costume was the same as that of the Greeks, except that their fostanellas were not plaited.

Our Tartar was certainly much more partial to bye-ways than to high-ways, as he generally quitted the latter in favour of the former; and though he led us over many dangerous and difficult places, we were indebted to him for the sight of some most beautiful spots, which we should not otherwise have seen. I am persuaded he did several things on purpose to torment Castelli; as, although when we were on the plains he would only go a gentle trot, yet he galloped us down the Balkan, and often through places so precipitous, and where the roads were so execrable, that it

was like riding over an unpaved street, with all the stones lying loose upon it. We were often in imminent danger of breaking our legs; but luck attending us, we reached the base of the mountains by night.

The next morning the plains of Bulgaria were before us; the village called Intiman, where we had passed the night, being on its frontier. The costume of the Bulgarian women is very remarkable and extremely picturesque. A little pointed red cap adorns the head, made of a sort of woollen cloth; they wear flowers, such as may happen to be in season, in small bunches on each side of that part of the head which is level with the eyes. Marigolds were favourites whilst I was in the country. The gown, which is a white sort of woollen, or cloth, is open at the throat, and gradually closes as it reaches the chest, and has a border of embroidery from the neck to the waist, which is girt round by a broad red sash; the bottom of the gown is also embroidered, and under that appears the shift, which is ornamented in the same manner. The sleeves are short; but at the bottom of them appears embroidery: the shift sleeves much longer, and similarly adorned. They

wear what is called Persian stockings, being a sort of thick worsted, and worked in very showy patterns.

Many of the men had nearly the same style of dress, having a short white round coat with a broad red sash, or rather girdle over it, bound tightly round the waist, a red cap, and white leggings, which fastened with strings. But many of the Bulgarian men wear a brown hair cap, setting very closely to the head, and partaking exactly of its form, a coat which is loose and made of some skin of a light yellowish brown, very full breeches, and leggings made of the same stuff as the coat.

We entered the town of Sophia through masses of mud: I never before or since saw streets in such a filthy condition. There were in this place some houses rather better than others, and there appeared to be many Greek inhabitants: we met several females in the streets of that nation, who stared at us till their eyes were ready to start from their sockets.

Sophia has something the same characteristics as Philipopoli, so foreign to our ideas that it will bear no comparison with any thing one has ever

before seen. Curious gateways, ancient fountains; many queer sort of buildings, of which one could form no idea, nor say for what they were meant, all very strange, but interesting and picturesque. In towns of this description one sees more of the primitive features of a country than in capitals, where strangers fix their residence and build according to the fashion of their respective nations, and their example is soon followed by the original inhabitants, till the national character of their buildings can only be discovered in a few streets in some of the most ancient quarters, such being difficult to find in the largest Turkish cities, on account of the fires consuming every thing but the stone edifices, which are almost confined to the public establishments. At Philipopoli and Sophia, I could not hear of any persons having become regular inhabitants of those places, independent of the natives, but Turks or Greeks.

They here gave me such an extraordinary misshapen-looking animal for a horse, that I was inclined to change with the Tartar for his; but they assured me that mine was a capital goer. It hardly looked to me like a horse; it had something the character of a gnu, or like some out-

landish nondescript, that no one ever saw before. It certainly did not go badly, but there must have been something very remarkable in it, as I observed many persons in passing looked either at the horse or the rider, and burst out a laughing, and my *amour propre* flattered itself that it must be at the horse, as rather the queerer looking animal of the two. Another circumstance convinced me that my charger could not have had anything very prepossessing in his appearance, for although Castelli complained most bitterly of the dreadful roughness of his horse, yet he would not hear of exchanging. However, the odd-looking beast carried me very well, and I wish I may never bestride a worse.

We reposed at a Bulgarian village, called Alkali, which I found rather interesting, having dwellings something like farm-houses, with large yards and lots of cattle, and cottages extremely rustic, meadows with footpaths crossing them, having much the appearance of an English village.

The fountain, as usual, seemed to be the point of rendezvous for villagers, and the cottagers, from far and near, were approaching with their pitchers. We went up to the group assembled, and if we

were amused with them, they appeared ten times more so with us; they were principally females. One very fine young man was with them who belonged to the house at which we were quartered; he was in the national white dress, with the broad red sash, so advantageous to the figure, and by signs drew our attention to one of the girls, whom I presume to have been the belle of the village; her costume was such as I have described, white and embroidered, &c. She was tall, slight, and well made, having a very pretty face, very delicate complexion, fair blue eyes, and light hair. Our notice having been directed towards her, Castelli slipped over to the side of the fountain on which she was standing; but she would not permit any closer approach, and skipped away to a little distance whenever he attempted to come near her.

They all seemed much diverted with Castelli's spectacles, and one woman tried to get hold of them, which he would not allow. They all appeared extremely good humoured, and laughed right merrily, which made us laugh also, though none of us, perhaps, could tell at what, but I know not anything so infectious as laughter.

We took our meal in the kitchen of our khan, got some little tubs to sit upon, and a larger, on which we could place the dish; these were great luxuries, as we had not seen a table or a chair since we had left Adrianople. They gave us some roast meat: Castelli said it was mutton, I vowed it was goat. How was it to be decided? I found a method. Pointing to the meat, I imitated the language of a goat, and the Bulgarians all nodded assent; but were so exceedingly delighted, that they kept laughing at the circumstance all the evening, and I dare say talk of it to this day. One of them brought in a goat, to make it the clearer that I was right in my conjecture; and they were so pleased at my imitation of the animal, that they all tried their skill at it, till they altogether produced such a comical concert, that at last, we were as much amused as themselves. But none enjoyed it more than the Tartar, who came the whole length of the chamber to pat me on the shoulder, at the same time saying, "Aiee, aiee," or "Good, good." In the end, we had no reason to be much pleased at the amusement I had afforded them, for during the whole night

persons kept arriving,—I believe they were couriers,—and to each new-comer the tale was related of the Frank imitating a goat; and between talking, laughing, and baa-a-a, they made so much noise we could not get a wink of sleep all night.

CHAPTER XXI.

SURFACE OF BULGARIA—UNWELCOME VISITERS—TARTAR'S INJUSTICE—REFUSAL OF HORSES—WRETCHED CATTLE—SLOW PROGRESS—DISMOUNT—PALANKA—LEAVE ONE HORSE TO DIE—PRETTY VILLAGERS—STICK IN THE MUD—TOWER OF SKULLS—NISSA—SKETCHING INTERRUPTED—SERVIA—COSTUME OF THE SERVIANS—THEIR GOOD-HUMOUR—FORESTS OF SERVIA—PRINCE MISLOCH—TERRIFIC STORM OF RAIN—ABSURD MANNER OF SHOEING HORSES—BATICINA—RATZA—HASSAN PACHA—KOLAR—CASTELLI IN DUDGEON—ISSARJIK—BELGRADE—ITS CURIOUS AND INTERESTING APPEARANCE—ADIEU TO THE EAST—CROSSING THE DANUBE.

THE whole surface of Bulgaria struck me as having an air of plenty. I never before saw so many persons in one harvest field. I should think in one instance I saw as many as three hundred people; the crop might, perhaps, belong to the commune, I should suppose, not to a single individual. They seemed very merry, and their carts, as well as themselves, were adorned with marigolds.

At some places which we came to we found a good many Turks, and at one place, where I took a sketch of the mosque, Castelli got into a regular stew. Some Turkish peasants stopped to look at us, whom he fancied rather scowled as they went away, and two immense dogs entered the enclosure in which we were seated, and ran at us, which he declared had been set at us; and, some other men coming in, he thought that we were going to be regularly murdered. However, I still kept on drawing, and begged of him, if he felt alarmed, to return to the khan: but I must do him the credit to say that he would never leave me when he was apprehensive of any thing disagreeable occurring; he therefore staid and grumbled as usual till I had finished my sketch.

At night we arrived at a long Bulgarian village, the Tartar trying at several places to obtain quarters for us, but in vain; at last, we came to a large yard, in which some miserable houses stood, and with some difficulty we made the inmates hear, with the assistance of all the dogs of the village, who were barking at the heels of our horses, whilst we were slashing away with our whips. It was quite evident that the poor cottagers wished

us far enough, as they looked at us just as a cow does at a bastard calf. Most unwillingly they cooked us a fowl, and gave us some eggs and coffee, and arranged a shed under which we could spread some straw for our bedding.

We sauntered into the cottage where the family were collected; the man was sleeping on the floor, with an immense cloak of fur under him. We asked him what such a one would cost, as we observed almost all the peasants had them; and from the calculation of the difference of the value of the money, it appeared to be about three pounds ten shillings, English. We did not find them so good-humoured as all the other persons with whom we had come in contact. Castelli offered them snuff; and they called up the man to take a pinch, who appeared much to relish it. The next thing with which Castelli amused them was with some matches, which by pressure ignited. With them they were much surprised, and appeared to think it was absolutely magic; and the eldest daughter was quite delighted when he gave her two or three, and by degrees they became rather more cheerful; but by the manner in which they received us, it

was quite evident they did not expect they should be paid for what they furnished.

We were determined the next morning to watch well what the Tartar gave them. It appeared that one house had provided us with the fowl and eggs, and the other with *café au lait*, grapes, &c.; and the old flinty-hearted scoundrel only gave each of the women half a piastre, that is about five farthings a piece, or two-pence half-penny, for all which had been consumed by Castelli, myself, the Tartar, and surdjee. We could not suffer such a flagrant injustice to be practised on the poor wretches, on our account, therefore gave them what we considered a fair compensation for the trouble they had taken, and the articles they had furnished. This circumstance confirmed the bad opinion we had already formed of the Tartar; and we had occasion during the day to come to open warfare with him, on account of his obstinacy, and his endeavour to cross us in every thing we wished.

About the middle of the day, we arrived at a place called Sarrequoui, and the Tartar insisted upon going no farther till the next day. We mustered all the Turkish we could, and with the

assistance of the language of gesticulation, we made him understand that we desired to continue our journey; but he was squatted on the ground with his eternal pipe, and heard all our ravings with the most imperturbable indifference. Poor Castelli, almost mad with rage at being treated with such passive contempt, groaned out, as if it came from his very heart and soul, "*Quelle indignité.*" I believe the Tartar began to comprehend something of the meaning of the exclamation, from having heard it so often, as he gave a gentle grin on hearing it, which was the first time he had moved a muscle.

I then brought forth my firman; upon which he went into a passion, and brought the post-master to his aid, to swear there were no horses to be had, though we had been in the immense stable, where there were at least thirty. They then made us understand that they were either engaged, or just come off from a journey. We then turned the spectators, of which there were numbers, whom our violent dispute had drawn around us, I, holding my firman in my hand, demanded to be shewn the way to the Aga; and this had the desired effect, the Tartar promising us horses in about half an hour.

We then occupied the time in walking over the town, which seemed completely Bulgarian. We laid down a piastre for some peaches, and the man immediately began to weigh us some, but which proved so numerous, that after filling our pockets, we were obliged to leave half behind.

On returning to our quarters, we found the horses ready; and when I saw them, I was indeed most highly indignant, and heartily execrated the Tartar, *maître de poste*, surdjee, as well as the unlucky beasts we were about to bestride. I never saw a more woeful-looking set of animals; they were exactly an illustration of what the Londoners would call creeping cats'-meat. They had assigned me the tallest, which I believe was the reason why Castelli did not want to exchange, as he thought that if it came down, he should have the farther to fall. I mounted the poor miserable wretch in dudgeon; and my heart yearns for him now, although, in all probability, he has given up the ghost long ere this.

We had not gone far before we found that the poor beasts were so tired, that they were tripping every instant, that it was impossible to urge them beyond a foot pace, and my unfortunate charger

beginning to emit a most disagreeable scent, caused us soon to discover that it had a most horrid and offensive complaint; proofs of which kept oozing out from under my saddle. I never had so disgusting a ride in my life. Castelli, for his part, could only get his horse to move by eternal flogging, and finding his whip not so effective as mine, he borrowed it, and broke it for me. The Tartar seemed to enjoy our annoyance, turning round, smiling at us, and nodding his head, as if to remind us that we were receiving the punishment of our own obstinacy.

Night and darkness at length came on, and arriving at the brink of a hill, which was terrific to look down, as far as we could see of it, being formed of large loose stones and ridges of rock. Castelli very prudently proposed that we should dismount; and we had not done so two minutes, before his horse came down, and appeared inclined to lie still. We bellowed out for the Tartar, who was some way in advance, but returned to our call; and we once more raised the prostrate animal on his legs. The surdjee took him in charge and gave the horse he had ridden to Castelli; and by slow degrees we reached Palanka, the village

where we were to lodge for the night. We again dismounted, and had no sooner entered it, than an army of dogs came rushing to the assault: indeed it was too dark to see all our enemies. Castelli was outside, therefore sustained the post of honour, and, observing that I did not mind the dogs, begged to resign it to me; but he having my whip, which was the most potent weapon we had, I declined changing sides with him. However, as he yielded me the all redoubtable thong, I agreed to occupy the side most exposed, and succeeded in keeping them at bay.

Arrived at our quarters, it was decided to kill a fowl for our supper; and as we knew how dilatory the cooks in that country were, we lay down to try to get some sleep, giving orders to be called when our repast was ready, which did not happen until nearly two in the morning, and consisted of soup and the fowl overboiled, with a few eggs and rice.

At daylight we resumed our journey, with the same cattle. The dreadful state of my horse's back had made my saddle in a most horrible condition, and we began to get very sick of Bulgarian travelling; and I certainly did most heartily echo

Castelli's exclamation of "*Oh, mon Dieu, quel voyage!*" Rain overtaking us, we stopped at a sort of khan, or coffee-house. The Tartar's horse almost sinking with weakness, we left it at the house where we had reposed, and it was judged that it would die before night; our surdjee was therefore obliged to walk, giving up his horse to the Tartar.

The weather being fairer, we again started, making very slow progress, and resting at a very picturesque spot, where a peasant was forming a stack of Turkey wheat, assisted by a number of girls, perhaps thirty, not one of whom had an unpleasing countenance, and most of them decidedly pretty. They were very young, mostly from fourteen to twenty, not at all of the rustic description of beauty, being very delicate, having small features, and but little colour. They were all dressed exactly alike; their white costumes tastefully embroidered, and their little red caps and sashes, with the marigolds prettily arranged about their heads, had the most picturesque effect that could be imagined. I have often seen at the theatre, in Rosina and other pieces, village maids introduced, who were so much more refined than any I ever

saw in real life, that I always looked upon it as a most highly coloured picture, bearing little resemblance to what it was intended to represent; but here I certainly saw in reality, that which I had ever considered as an unnatural stage effect.

On our approaching this pretty village group, they laughed gaily,—not as it were in derision, but that they were pleased, and amused at seeing persons whose costume and appearance was so foreign to any thing they had ever before seen.

After amusing ourselves some minutes looking at the merry party, we proceeded onwards; and at one place my horse got so completely stuck in the mud that I despaired of his ever extricating himself. I used every persuasive endeavour in my power, while the surdjee kept throwing stones at him; and at last the poor beast made one tremendous effort, and with a spring delivered itself from the filth. We reached the plains of Nissa, when our eyes immediately sought the Tower of Skulls, so magnificently described by M. de la Martine; and, what was our astonishment to find it merely the size of a large dovecote! A few skulls there were still remaining upon it, but it was but a petty affair compared to the grand

pile we expected to see, from M. de la Martine's account of it.

This Tower of Skulls, as it was called, was formed of Servian heads of those that had fallen in the war with the Turks, and has been always much magnified by those who have alluded to it.

We gladly entered the town of Nissa, as we were there to part with our poor wretched beasts. It is a large place, for this part of the world, and has some public buildings of importance, and a bazaar. The bridge is as curious as that of Philipopoli, and I set to work taking a view of it, but soon was surrounded with such a crowd of Turks, who were inclined to be rather jocular, that it became unpleasant. Castelli first made his retreat, and I not long after, before I could complete my drawing of the bridge. The spectators had become rather troublesome, although I believe they meant all in good humour; and Castelli afterwards told me of a little bye-play that was going on behind me, and of which I was not aware. I had left my gloves on some logs of wood, and the young Turks got examining and amusing themselves with them,—poking their fingers into some

holes which constantly holding the bridle had worked in them, diverting themselves with such fooleries as might be expected from children:—in fact, I have often found a great similarity between an uneducated barbarian and a child.

We sauntered to another part of the town, and I again began to sketch; whilst Castelli, struck with some object, thought he would take a view also. We were out of sight of each other, but not long out of hearing, as I had not half finished my drawing when I heard Castelli calling; and the next minute I saw him with about nineteen dogs at his heels, barking most furiously, and making a tremendous noise; but, by having recourse to my magic whip, I was enabled to keep them off from absolutely biting us. However, we returned to our quarters with the canine procession closely following us.

We started next morning at four o'clock, and rode some distance in the dark, refreshed at Alexnitza, and then arrived upon the frontiers of Servia. The first town at which we halted in that country was Rashna, and t ere I saw two symptoms of civilization which much pleased me,—

a chair, and a printed paper, which was a sort of advertisement, in the Servian, Hungarian, and Turkish languages.

The costume of the Servian men is very picturesque, being exactly similar to that of the Greeks, except that the fostanella worn by the Servians is not so full, and is not plaited. The women wear a large coat down to the heels, with a great many red worsted ornaments stuck upon it in a most uncouth fashion. Others of the women wear jackets of cloth trimmed with fur. They this day gave me a capital horse—a fine stallion—that was so ardent in his desire to be first, that I got quite a corn on my finger in holding him in, the etiquette forbidding one to precede the Tartar;—and I always like to respect the customs, and sometimes the prejudices of a country.

In the afternoon we arrived at a place called Palanka Paracina, which appeared quite like a newly-built town, all the houses having a fresh appearance. It seemed an extremely populous place, and we were regarded by its inhabitants as great curiosities. I have no doubt that many of them never saw persons in our costumes before.

At the khan where we stopped there were two large windows, and, as we sat at one of these eating our grapes, a great crowd of people came round on purpose to look at us, but all, as usual, seeming in high good humour; and when the time came for our departure, it pleased their caprice that I should mount from the window, to save me the trouble of going round; but the horse did not approve the plan, and would not come near enough. However, they would have their own way; therefore, setting their shoulders to the beast, they shoved him up close; and I, to gratify their whim, stepped from the window into the stirrup: upon which they called out "Dobree, dobree," that is, "Good, good;" then waving their hands, said something meaning adieu.

We had not proceeded far before it began to get dark; so that when we arrived at Yagodine, all that we could make of it was that it appeared rather a large place. However, we were doomed to see more of it than we liked, as the next morning we were detained there by violent rain, till nine. We then started, and soon resumed the forests, which are indeed, as M. de la Martine describes them, like the ocean; for they appear



endless. When mounted on the summit of an eminence, nothing but eternal forests are seen, as far as the eye can reach; they are mostly composed of oak, which seldom reach to a great height, but some of the roots are most extraordinary, where the tremendous rains that occur in this country, have washed away the mould, and, uniting with the operation of time, have left them bare, in some instances completely excavating the earth from under their gigantic roots, and giving them a wild rugged appearance, that is most highly picturesque.

Prince Misloch, the reigning prince of Servia, has done much for the country. He has erected fountains at given distances throughout the principality; he has had roads formed through the forests, and shown a disposition in every respect to improve his little sovereignty; and we certainly did not see any symptoms of misery, the peasantry having the appearance of being cheerful and content.

We observed that marigolds seemed to be the favourite flowers in Servia, as well as Bulgaria, and that the people were not content with adorn-

ing themselves, but all their waggons and other vehicles were also decorated with them. Although Prince Misloch has certainly done something in cutting ways through the forests, yet the roads are very bad and dangerous. For the formation of these immense openings through the woods, trees have been cut down, and mould thrown over their roots, so as to look like roads; but great part of it having been washed off by the showers, the foundation of the roadway is entirely roots, into which your horse's hoofs often hang, and the poor animals are thrown on their knees. it was only with the greatest care and attention that we could keep our horses on their legs through these forests.

We did not gain much by having waited for the rain, as, after having rode a few leagues, it poured down as if the clouds had burst over us. The horses stopped quite alarmed, and we could see the mould splash up with the force of the rain, that tore it up in all directions. I certainly was wicked enough sometimes to tease Castelli in mere sport. To keep the rain from beating in his face, he had hunched his head into the collar of

his cloak. I kept calling him, and at last most unwillingly his head emerged from its muffler: the torrent of rain fairly gave him a slap on the face, as he pettishly said, "What do you want?" I replied, I only wished to tell him it was raining. He grunted out something about, "As if I did not know that," and again buried himself in his wet wrapper, but gave me a tremendous lecture afterwards, for having been the cause of the wet getting into his neck; which must have been the case under any circumstances, as the rain was so searching that neither cloaks, coats, nor capes would have been of any avail, unless they were of India rubber manufacture.

We came to a halt and shelter at a place called Devibagardar, where Castelli would have been very glad to have staid for the night; but the place was so thoroughly uninviting, and the Tartar declaring it would soon be fine, we once more penetrated into the woods and wilds, which presented an aspect of pleasing melancholy, so still that not a sound was heard except the pattering of the rain, as it dripped from leaf to leaf, no sky to be seen between the trees, the thickness of the

foliage shutting out all light except that which came from immediately above us; the only moveable creatures which we could perceive were hogs, very rugged and wild looking, but I believe of domestic stock.

We had a proof of the extreme absurdity of shoeing horses in that totally smooth fashion to which I have before alluded. The ground being extremely wet, the animals slipped about so that we could hardly keep them up. Another torrent of rain coming on just as we were in sight of a village, Castelli declared he would go no farther that day; and, just at the moment, the surdjee's horse coming down with his rider, who was much hurt, Castelli thought his argument for stopping much strengthened. It was in vain that I urged it was but half past two, and that we were as wet as wetness could make us, and that, whilst in that condition, it was better to keep in exercise than to remain stationary. "Then," replied he, "you may go on, take the Tartar and the horses, and I will follow as I can; but no persuasion shall induce me to proceed any farther this day."

As to leaving him, that I could not think of; I

therefore agreed to stop at a place called Baticina, at a khan kept by a Servian family,—very decent people,—the wife extremely pretty,—quite the Madonna style of face. I took two sketches of her,—one in profile, and the other in front, with her baby, a remarkably fine child. The people of the house, and the visitors, were mightily pleased, and a Turkish officer who was living in the house offered to sit to me, and I took a very accurate likeness of him.

Meantime Castelli had routed over his portmanteau, and got out dry things, in which he was soon clad, whilst his wet clothes were dabbing in our faces whichever way we turned, he having hung them up all over the place, all the time grumbling at me most furiously, because I would not follow his example; vowing that it was wicked of me not to do so, for the sake of those who belonged to me, I assuring him all the time that I knew I should not take cold, although the next morning when I got up, I really found as much water in my boots as would have filled a small tea-cup. I had lain down in them all night, and slept well, fearing, if I pulled them off, that when dry they would be so stiff, and have shrunk so,

that I should not have been able to have got them on. The best of it was, that, after all, Castelli caught cold, and I did not.

From various delays we were late before we started, and found the roads completely saturated with wet. We passed over several bridges, constructed in such a manner as to be admirably well calculated to throw a horse down, being merely made of trees, cut lengthways in two, the round part upwards. Wood, when wet, is always very slippery, and the rotundity of the timber trunks of course increased it. On one of these bridges our surdjee came down, and we several times were nearly having the same fate; but we had tolerably good cattle, and got on pretty well, to a place called Ratza; and here we found a chair or two, and were pleased at meeting these increasing signs of civilization. The woods were enclosed also by a sort of wooden railing,—rather rude, certainly, but still indicating that they belonged to somebody. We still had some Turkish symptoms left, although they were much on the decline.

The next place we arrived at was named Hassan Pacha,—evidently of Ottoman derivation. The country generally had a social, habitable, and

cheerful appearance, and the air was very delightful after the rain, though Castelli at first starting complained bitterly of cold, which I should not have perceived had he not mentioned it.

We had a noble-looking fellow for a surdjee, and dressed completely in the Eastern style; the turned-down flaps of his boots were immense, and richly embroidered; he had a fine face and figure, whilst his every movement was full of energy and spirit. By various signs and gesticulations he made us understand that he took us for great admirers of the fair sex, and that he could introduce us, at the place we were to pass the night, to two damsels whose charms were of the most captivating description; and, as well as we could comprehend him, he wished to make it clear that these fascinating creatures were Greek,—thinking that, perhaps, an additional recommendation. His eloquence, however, was of no avail; good horses to advance us, at that time, being to us more interesting than all the attractive powers of the fair.

Arriving at Kolar before dark, we had time to roam about it, and found it a remarkably neat village. The roofs of the houses were all formed of square pieces of wood, which at a distance had

the appearance of tiles. After exploring all quarters of the village, we seated ourselves opposite the fountain, which I have generally found the most interesting point, as one sees all the rustic girls of the place coming to and fro with their pails and pitchers for water; and some of the Servian lasses who passed before us had very picturesque costumes, and were rather good-looking.

At night they prepared us a supper, which we could have relished, had it not been for the Tartar. They had roasted us some little cutlets on a spit, and just as they were ready and looking very nice, the Tartar, before we could prevent him, swept them all off with his hands, and popped them on an earthen dish. Poor Castelli made such a ridiculous grimace at seeing his supper so ignominiously treated, and at the same time caught at the Tartar's arm, to try to prevent his pawing the viand, so exactly as a cat pounces on a mouse, that I roared with laughter, and so did several other persons that were in the kitchen at the time. But not so the Tartar, who thought he had been performing a very good-natured action, as the Turks do every thing with their fingers. He could not understand

what Castelli was in such a passion about, and was quite indignant at being clawed in so rough a style, and showed his resentment by grinning at Castelli, chattering his teeth at him, and abusing him, as it was easy to infer from his manner, as loudly, and with as much volubility, as his tongue could command. Castelli was not far behind him, his features going through some most extraordinary evolutions; whilst in return for the Turkish abuse he received, he repaid him in Italian. He was not a little angry with me for laughing, and vowed he would not eat any supper. I endeavoured to persuade him to taste it, and set him the example; upon which he exclaimed, "Yes, indeed, I think I see myself eating these chops, after they have been pawed about by that vile old brute,—*quelle indignité!*" But Castelli was really very hungry, and, after, all submitted to the indignity of eating a very hearty supper.

Next morning we had not long mounted our horses before we were gratified by a splendid view of the Danube, which we hailed as the signal that our toilsome journey was near its end; yet, one little variety more we had to experience. Castelli's

baggage had not been properly fastened together on the horse that carried it, and a cord giving way, down came all his effects in the mud. I thought he would have jumped off his horse with rage. He shook his fist at the Tartar, who shot fire from his eyes at Castelli in exchange, whilst the surdjee gathered together the prostrate baggage; but that which Castelli groaned most about was a beautiful English writing-desk, which he feared had been injured in the fall, but the mud had saved it.

We stopped at a place called Tesargik, and had some fish from the Danube, which were not bad; and Castelli seeing the termination of his journey approaching, enjoyed his breakfast, and for the first time we were accommodated with knives and forks. Our last horses, at length, were brought forth, which we mounted with much satisfaction, made but one short halt to bait our steeds, and pushed on for Belgrade.

At length we came in view of that long and far-famed city, for which there have been so many struggles, and which has been so often lost and won by various powers. We entered it at noon, and found it as foreign-looking, and different in appearance from what our English ideas have

been accustomed to, as can be well imagined, most singularly picturesque, and something more handsome and European than any other town we had passed through. They were building a palace for the Prince Misloch, which promised to have nothing remarkable about it but its ugliness.

Whilst we were sauntering about the streets, we saw the sister-in-law of the reigning prince, a fine-looking woman, and dressed in a very remarkable manner, with an extremely long waist, which was very tight, an outer sort of short pelisse, trimmed with fur, with which her dress was also bordered; embroidery of gold and tassels were introduced, not without taste, and on her head she wore a sort of turban, but unlike any I had ever before seen.

The costumes at Belgrade were very amusing, comprehending an immense variety. There appeared a great partiality for fur, as almost every one had some of one description or another about their dress; here we first began to see coats and waistcoats, but the persons wearing them, generally having mustachios, had a completely foreign appearance.

We had to produce our passports, and to receive

a sort of permit for departure; and after some demurs and delays, that we could not understand, at last we embarked on the Danube, the Tartar still accompanying us, engaging to stow us safely in Semlin. I kept looking back with regret on Belgrade, as the last monument I should perhaps ever behold of Eastern climes, and felt that I was bidding adieu to those regions of romance, where civilization has not so far intruded as to crush all the primitive features of the country, where costumes and customs still remind us of the most interesting periods, where the wild, the sublime, and the picturesque, are alternately presenting their charms, where pomp and grandeur are profusely displayed, and where the rude bursts of nature have never felt man's spoiling hand. Such are the varied and inconsistent features which present themselves in the Turkish empire, and yet, with all her incongruities, she has fascinations which are so impressed on my reminiscences, that as I turned to the west, I seemed but to regard it as the land of common-place, sameness, and insipidity.

CHAPTER XXII.

TARTAR'S ELOQUENCE—LAZARETTO—HORRIBLE ANNOYANCE—GREEK MERCHANT—CASTELLI'S LAMENTATIONS—OCCUPATION OF OUR ASSIGNED QUARTERS—CASTELLI IN DESPAIR—PRECINCTS OF OUR PRISON—CASTELLI PURIFIED AND RELIEVED—FUMIGATION OF OUR PAPERS—THE AUTHOR ALARMS AN INDIVIDUAL—PURSUITS IN OUR DEN—OUR GUARDIAN'S GENIUS FOR THE COMIC—IGNORANCE AND IMPOSITION OF THE CUSTOM-HOUSE OFFICERS—VILLANOUS CHARGES—LIBRE PRATIQUE—SELLING OF SADDLES—A DISAPPOINTMENT—DEPARTURE FROM SEMLIN—TRAVELLING IN SCLAVONIA—CARLOVITZ—PETERWARDIN—NEUSSATZ—HANDSOME INN—APPEARANCE OF THE TOWN—RASCALLY DRIVER—HIS SUCCESSOR—HUNGARIAN PEASANTS—SINGULAR COSTUME—TOPOLYE—CASTELLI'S EXTRAORDINARY ANIMATION—DREADFUL STATE OF THE ROADS—BEDS OF MUD—THERESIANOPLE—SURFACE OF THE COUNTRY—HELAS—IMPOSITION OF OUR DRIVER—ENGLISH GENTLEMAN CHASTISED—INDELICACY OF THE FEMALE HUNGARIAN PEASANTS—EXTRAORDINARY REPRESENTATION OF OUR SAVIOUR—SUSPICIOUS QUARTERS—ILL-LOOKING FELLOWS—ALARM—PREPARATIONS FOR HOSTILITIES—RECONNOITRING—EMBLEMS OF PEACE—DANGEROUS TRAVELLING IN HUNGARY—PRECAUTIONS USUALLY ADOPTED—CASTELLI ENCHANTED—ARRIVAL AT PESTH.

WE had not rowed half way across the Danube, before the Tartar drew forth two little round boxes of Turkish sweetmeats, which he presented

to us as tokens of farewell; but when he gave one to Castelli, he threw into his countenance all the charms of which he considered it capable, and, instead of inclining his head to his left side, as was his custom, he turned it to the right, being that on which his auditor sat, and, putting on a most besifficating smile, looking Castelli in the face, threw as much softness into his eyes as their sinister sharpness would admit.

The Tartar exhibited all his pantomimic talents to make us understand that he hoped we should not write to Stamboul against him. He did not fear me, but all his persuasive powers were brought in action to mollify Castelli's wrath. To other little touches of elocution, he added that of giving him a little affectionate pat on the shoulder, shaking his head so coaxingly, and simpering so winningly, that it was quite irresistible; Castelli was totally subdued, declaring he thought he was a prime old fellow, and that he certainly should write to Constantinople in his favour.

The engagement had been so arranged that eight hundred piastres were to be left in the hands of M. Lemoine, the merchant, who hired

the Tartar for us, as a sort of pledge for his good behaviour, and if we had cogent reasons to be dissatisfied with him, we were to write to that effect, and the money was not to be given to him. This was what the Tartar feared we should do, at least he suspected it was Castelli's intention, but he was mistaken; for although the choleric Genoese was very passionate, and of a fretful temper, yet he had so kind a heart, that it was easily softened.

But I had not so soon forgotten the manner in which we had been treated; and though I did not wish to write in such a manner as to deprive him of the eight hundred piastres, yet I considered it a duty we owed the public, not to give him a high character for attention, civility, activity, or even for very scrupulous honesty, as he often let us go supperless to bed, when he had engaged at starting that we should always be comfortably lodged, and well provided with food, when the place at which we stopped would afford the means. In this he failed, and, I consider, cheated us, and, when he could, the people on whom we were quartered. On reflection, Castelli agreed with me, and merely wrote our consent that he should receive the deposit

left with M. Lemoine, but stated not a word in his praise; and I certainly consider myself justified in warning all travellers against having Kouli Kapouli Hassan Aga as a Tartar, or, I might perhaps add, in any other capacity.

As we neared Semlin, some gentlemen came to the shore, and after saluting us, asked what news from Turkey. We thought they were in quarantine, and that they had a good range to walk in, which did not give us a bad idea of what we were going to endure; but we found our mistake afterwards. We landed in a most exclusive manner; and ourselves and effects were regularly marched into the Lazaretto, which struck me as looking like a menagerie, only instead of birds and beasts peeping through the cages, they were men and women.

We were popped into a little enclosure, about twice as large as a watch-box, where we found it very cold, having been much chilled in crossing the Danube, though no later than the fourteenth of October. From our little prison we could see into a large room, where we saw a number of men in the Eastern costume, waiting whilst their baggage was inspected, and a list taken of every article.

We soon found that we should be forced to go through the same ceremony, much to our annoyance. We requested to be shown to the rooms assigned us, and to have our effects searched there, but were informed that ambassadors alone had that privilege.

Finding no one would take any pity on us, as we looked at each other in the queer-looking cage in which we were enclosed, our impatience began to wax wroth; and Castelli quite worked himself into a regular rage, but yet not sufficient to warm him, as he kept shivering and exclaiming "*Quelle indignité!*" to be stowed like malefactors in a little paltry hole like this; then calling out to the clerk, who was in hearing, "If you must rout over all our things, whether we will or no, why do you not attend to us, and not keep us waiting in this way!" "*Il faut attendre encore un petit peu, mon cher!*" replied a vulgar, impudent fellow, with all possible nonchalance. "We have waited too long already," returned Castelli. "*Chaque à son tour, mon cher!*" observed this young cub, as he swung on his heel, and whistled on, as if he was hardly conscious he had been spoken to; but Castelli

was tremendously irritated at being so familiarly called "*mon cher*" by such a low wretch, and as usual exclaiming "*Quelle indignité,*" vowed he would bear it no longer, whilst rummaging over his pocket-book, he brought forth a letter of introduction he had for a Signor Spirito, a Greek merchant of Semlin; after perfuming the letter, it was conveyed, and Signor Spirito soon appeared. To whom Castelli poured forth his list of lamentations, but could obtain little comfort from the Greek, and amongst other complaints, he did not fail to mention the indignity he had received by having been called "*mon cher*" by the fellow who then stood next him. The impudent clerk merely stared, and laughed at Castelli's charge against him, whilst the smooth Signor Spirito consoled Castelli, by saying he was sure the young man meant no harm. All this conversation was carried on, *pro bono publico*, as Spirito could only hold converse with us, peeping through some bars at some distance from us, and not directly opposite, but in a slanting direction, so that every word was obliged to be bawled out in the highest key, whilst lots of auditors and spectators were peeping

through different bars in all directions, some of whom were most highly amused at Castelli's budget of grievances.

At last it came to our turn to have our luggage ransacked; and certainly they did it most effectually, registering every trifle, even to a toothpick, spreading every thing all over the ground. They even numbered all my sketches, and told me I should have to pay duty for them. I knew better, and reminded them that throughout the Austrian dominions there was no duty on drawings and paintings; but we found the Sclavonians as obstinate, as they were ignorant. However, we were glad at last to get our things together, in which they hurried us to that degree, that they would not let us arrange them sufficiently even to shut our trunks, but bundled them in pell-mell; and as they could not squeeze them all in, they, lent us baskets to put the rest in, and then turning us out, shut the doors of the warehouse upon us, before we had time to examine whether or no we had everything with us; and indeed I found afterwards that some trifles were lost.

We had a very small house or cottage allotted

to us, in which there was only one habitable room, a sort of loft above it, a kitchen, and a wash-house behind, with a little green plot of turf, on which we could stretch our legs. After having so long slept upon hay or straw, we were delighted at the sight of beds, although we did not much like the arrangement of them, that of having one bed over another, so that you sleep between two beds. We entered into an agreement with a restaurateur, and had the benefit of that which we had for some time lacked, a good repast; and indeed we were sufficiently well supplied with provisions, and generally very well dressed, during our stay in quarantine.

We very gladly retired early to rest, well disposed to appreciate the luxury of a good bed, and an apartment which had the appearance of having been inhabited by civilised beings, and possessed some articles which savoured of comfort. When I awoke, I heard poor Castelli muttering in a low tone, "*Oh, mon Dieu, quelle indignité!*" "What is the matter?" I demanded. He made some demur, before he would admit the cause of his murmurings; but at last confessed that he was inhabited by the very miscreants against whom I

had cautioned him, and whom he thought would never dare to form so close an intimacy with such a dignified personage as himself. I gave him much consolation by informing him that any medical man would give him something that would destroy them all, in a very short time; and as we understood that we were to be visited every day by a doctor, redress would soon be at hand. As soon as we had arisen, we proceeded to examine the limits of our prison, for such it was, in every sense of the word, as a key was constantly turned upon us. We had a man to attend us, who is called the guardian, but answers also for the purposes of gaoler, or turnkey. Our little plot of grass was enclosed by wooden railings, through which we found some pleasure in peeping at the world without. From the back of the premises we could see into the country; and I made a sketch of a group of cottages, which were so exactly like those that we are accustomed to see at home, that I could have imagined I was in England, instead of Sclavonia.

Our guardian having left the gate open an instant, we popped out to read a paper which was stuck upon the gate post, and which we had ob-

served to have attracted the notice of the passers by. We found that it alluded to ourselves, stating that we entered quarantine on the 14th of October, and that we should be at liberty on the 24th, at five o'clock in the afternoon. Our guardian came and caught us outside the gate, and shook his head at us most woefully. As he could not speak any language that was intelligible to us, all our conversation was by signs. He was a good-humoured fellow, inclined to be comic, but in his willingness to help us, he sometimes disturbed the economy of Castelli's arrangements, and once had the misfortune to let his gun fall, and to put a hot plate on his English writing desk, so that he very soon so stirred up Castelli's ire, that a species of warfare took place between them similar to that which had occurred with the Tartar.

About noon the doctor came, and ordered every bit of paper that was on the ground to be gathered together, looked well around the room, but was ignorant of any language spoken by us, consequently, Castelli could not make him understand that he wanted his assistance to rid him of his new friends which had become so closely attached

to him. I endeavoured to assist in illustrating the obnoxious subject; but our united dumb-show eloquence was exerted in vain, till at last a bright thought struck me, which was not an unnatural one for a portrait painter; I drew a likeness of one of the insinuating little wretches from memory. The doctor, at the sight of it, was enlightened in an instant, and sent the desired remedy; and the next day Castelli might be compared to a city which had been afflicted with some pestilential malady, which had spared neither age nor sex, but extended its scourge to the whole population, as amongst all the living beings which had peopled Castelli the day before, no living creature moved, and none but a silent and solemn stillness reigned, and the next day, after a thorough ablution, to his great joy he found himself totally uninhabited.

We had a visit from the interpreter, which was very salutary, as it gave us an opportunity of explaining all our wants. He was a fine gentlemanly fellow, a Hungarian by birth, and held his appointment under the Austrian government, as interpreter to the lazaretto of Semlin. M. Spirito also came to see us, with the mortifying intelli-

gence that the steam-boat by which we reckoned on proceeding to Presburg, would start on the same day that we should be emancipated, but about seven hours before our deliverance, and that the next boat would not pass for ten days after; therefore, steam conveyance for us was out of the question. A diligence there was, if we chose to run the risk of upsetting; but as it was known sometimes to turn over three or four times between Semlin and Pesth, a distance of between two and three hundred miles, few but the lower classes, and those who had but little respect for their necks and their limbs, would go by it. We were, therefore, advised to hire a farmer's waggon and four good stout horses, as the best mode of travelling, and such as was universally adopted by travellers, even of distinction, as the safest and surest through such horrible roads as we should have to traverse. M. Spirito, who constituted himself our *factotum*, further adding that he would take charge of procuring us the desired equipage, which, after some deliberation, we commissioned him to do.

The next day we were required to proceed to the Bureau with all our papers, to have them

fumigated and stamped with the Austrian seal. I had many letters, some of introduction, which were open, others of which I had taken charge, which were sealed; but, without the slightest ceremony, they broke them all open, then asked me if I was sure I had brought every single paper which I had; to which I replied, that I believed I might have left some behind; and, after grumbling at me and scolding the guardian for not having seen that I had brought all that was requisite with me, I was allowed to go back for the rest.

For my part I was pleased at the omission, as it gave me two journeys, affording me that much more of air and exercise; but as I was returning, the guardian having lingered behind, I was carelessly walking along the narrow path which was railed in on each side, when I met a person, who just called out, "Oh! Oh!" as if I had dreadfully alarmed him, and stuck his back against the rails. I, looking as innocently as possible, was for approaching the good gentleman, to convince him that I meant him no harm; but he made the most energetic motions to make me understand that he desired me to keep off, and at last took to

his heels and ran away. It was all enigma to me, which, if I had reflected, I might easily have solved. I forgot that, being in quarantine, whoever I touched or rubbed up against became as pestiferous a subject as myself, and therefore must be subjected to the same course of purification; hence the alarm of the unfortunate wretch whom I had so appalled. Had I come absolutely in contact with him, he would have been doomed to nine days' confinement, which is seldom very agreeable to any man.

It had struck me before, in my progress to and fro to the Bureau, how very respectfully persons moved out of my way; and I thought what a very polite people they must be, or how very imposing my appearance, to command so much obsequiousness; but as I had never any reason to think so before, I concluded that it must result from the natural politeness of the natives of the country. The truth was now revealed; and I had not another opportunity allowed me of alarming the good folks of Semlin, as the gate of our den was once more shut upon us. We were not again permitted to see the outside of it till the hour of our deliverance.

For my part, I did not find the punishment so severe of being shut up against one's will. I touched up some of my sketches during the day-time, whilst my reminiscences were still fresh of what I had seen; and at night, when I could not see to paint and draw, I wrote my memoranda; between lights, walking up and down the little plot of turf.

But not so with Castelli; he was absolutely miserable with *ennui*. The first day he occupied himself writing letters; and that engaging his mind, he was very quiet. The next day he counted up all his expenses, which always afforded him considerable amusement. But on the third day, and ever after, he had no resource to drive away the fidgets, and moaned and groaned incessantly; he would go to bed at eight o'clock, to kill some portion of time; but even that expedient did not avail him, as he found he could not sleep when he retired so early. He therefore gave himself up to lamentations and counting the hours till the period of our emancipation.

Some little occupation he had in quarrelling with the guardian, who sometimes grumbled in his turn, and one day came blubbering to tell us

he must go to prison on our account, because we had been seen outside the gate. His incarceration, however, was not a very dreadful affair, being only about three hours. Although he was aware that we could not understand him, yet he would talk to us now and then, and with the aid of a French or Italian word, he conceived that he made himself quite intelligible. Once he came in so disguised that we did not know him. Having blackened his mustachios, wound some towels round his head for a turban, with a shirt he had contrived to make a sort of fostanella, had got hold of my broad red sash, which he had tied round his waist, and, with a little white jacket, he certainly looked something like a Turk; and, entering with Castelli's gun in his hand, he had a tolerably fierce appearance.

All this was done with a view of amusing us; but he was an encroaching and imposing fellow, and would continually take up articles, asking us to give them to him, and latterly introduced his wife to wash our linen, for which she charged about sixteen shillings, without ironing them; so that we could not wear them till we had given them to other hands for the finishing stroke. This

last affair set Castelli quite furious, and very justly, against the guardian; but as it was only the last day that our linen was brought in, we had not many hours left for venting our spleen; and a succession of unexpected charges coming in of a most imposing and exorbitant kind, did certainly most considerably ruffle the temper of us both.

By the exertions of Signor Spirito, it was agreed that my miniatures, drawings, &c., were to be passed in transit to Vienna. As I was not remaining in the country, they remitted the duty, but charged three half-pence upon each as the price of the transit; and they were put in a separate box, which was sealed with lead, and fastened in the usual custom-house form. As I had several hundreds, the charge amounted to something, which I knew they had no business to make; and I afterwards found it to be the case when arrived at Vienna, and that the custom-house agents at Semlin had acted in ignorance.

We had been given to understand by M. Spirito, that the officers would visit our baggage before we quitted, but that he would speak to them not

to rout it about much, as we should have it ready packed for starting. This second visit appeared to me very unnecessary, after the strict register they had already taken of our effects; and yet Spirito informed us that we must give them something for their forbearance in not tumbling our things about, and suggested two sequins, or about a guinea, which seemed to me very superfluous, after all the charges which had been brought against us from the customs, unjustly, as I felt convinced, and as it afterwards proved; and I verily believe that the wily Greek merchant had a feeling in every transaction which, by special favour, he undertook for us, under the pretence of saving our cash, besides charging us a commission for his trouble.

As we had to hire every article of furniture, it afforded ample opportunity for imposing, which was not neglected. In fact, so numerous and extortionate were the different charges, that I lost my temper quite as much as Castelli. The only circumstance that gave us any pleasure during the day, was when the doctor gave us *libre pratique*, by offering us his hand. And about six o'clock,

after we had appeased all the spungers on our purses, we marched out of the lazaretto in very discontented mood.

I have dwelt much on these trivial circumstances, considering they may be useful to other travellers; and I only regret that, having lost all my notes, it is not in my power to give a list of the expenses with which we were charged in the lazaretto, although, when we asked what we should have to pay when in quarantine, we were answered, at the Bureau, "Nothing; the Austrian government maintains the lazaretto for the convenience of travellers, at its own expense, and takes no money." This was told us in a very high manner; and I believe, if you would be content to lie on the ground, in the open air, you would not have any thing to pay for it; but if you take your quarters under any thing in the shape of a roof, you must pay for it, and that pretty handsomely, when the extraordinary cheapness of provisions throughout the country is considered.

On quitting the lazaretto, we were conducted to a passably good inn, where they gave us a very tolerable dinner; but the female servants were so exceedingly familiar, and inclined to be amorous

with all the guests, that there was no keeping them at a decent distance.

Amongst the different travellers assembled at the *table d'hóte*, we found some American travellers, who were going to Constantinople by the Danube, but would still have a long distance to travel by land; therefore, we thought they could not do better than buy our saddles, particularly as we wished to dispose of them; and they thought so too, therefore, we soon struck a bargain. They also bought my counterpane, and would have purchased my pistols, but as they were a gift, I would not sell them: and I now remember I had some difficulty to get them returned from the Bureau of the lazaretto. At the time I arrived there, the clerks wanted to know if I would dispose of them; and on my answering in the negative, they detained them because they were loaded, but said they would send them to me the next day. When I again asked for them, they said I had better sell them, as I was then arrived amongst honest people, and was going to travel through a country where I should not want them. It was not till I quitted the lazaretto that I obtained them.

When travellers arrive at Semlin with the intention of proceeding eastward, the custom generally is for them to purchase the discarded saddle of some one journeying westward, who is also usually in the practice of selling his saddle, bridle, &c. The innkeeper is generally the medium between the two; but when travellers can arrange the affair together, both are gainers by it.

Castelli had speculated upon Spirito inviting us, the next morning, to his house; and we were amusing ourselves with wondering in what sort of style a Greek merchant lived in Sclavonia, what kind of a house he had, &c. But we were left to wonder; for the next morning he sent his *homme d'affaires* to superintend our departure, at the same time expressing his regret that he could not have the pleasure of seeing us himself, but that he was gone to church with his wife. I think he acted rightly, as Greeks, generally having many sins, have a good deal to pray for; and I think Signor Spirito had just committed a little *peccadillo*, in causing us to spend so much more money than was requisite. But Greeks are remarkably strict in their observance of the forms of religion. One of them once observed to me, he

thought they had as good a chance of getting to heaven as any persons; for, although he admitted that they were guilty of more bad actions, perhaps, than most other people, yet they were so constant in their worship that they always kept their score so nice and even.

Soon after breakfast was over our waggon appeared, and M. Spirito's deputy busied himself much about the interior arragements; for that, and all his other trouble, we did not forget to reward him. The price was settled that we were to pay to Neussatz; and at length we bundled ourselves in, taking care to have a good view in front, that we might see the country. Semlin appeared a good sized town, with some rather handsome houses in it, and several churches. An Italian regiment was quartered in this place, and dressed in the Austrian costume of all white, even their long gaiters: they had a remarkably neat appearance. They were generally extremely well made men, and mostly of the middle height.

The first peculiarity I observed when we were upon the road, was a curious substitute they had for a turnpike gate, having a long pole, which was drawn up or down by means of a chain. Whether

the toll be a fixed one for different descriptions of carriages I know not, or *ad libitum* with the man who keeps the bar; but in one instance they let down the pole to prevent our passing through, as the toll man and our driver could not agree about the charge: the former very coolly going into his house, and affording us an opportunity of admiring the country at leisure.

We had been cautioned to make our agreement that our waggoner should undertake the payment of the turnpikes, as impositions were often practised on the passengers, particularly if they were foreigners. However, as our driver would not pay, after waiting till we were tired, we yielded to his persuasions and paid the demand. Had we not done so, I know not how much longer we might have staid: it was pouring with rain at the time, and getting dark. This was but one of the many tricks that were played upon us in Hungary, in order to cheat us when it was possible.

We had not proceeded far before we struck into a mere track across a sort of common or waste land, on which there was no road whatever, merely the tracks of wheels having passed along the turf; and it appeared to me that each vehicle

seemed to take a new course, so that there were the marks of carriages having passed for an immense breadth; indeed as far as we could see. Great part of the country over which we travelled was of this description. Occasionally we came to villages, and they were remarkably neat, consisting of a row of cottages on each side, very clean, and whitewashed, with a regular line of trees on either side of the road. Their extremely nice appearance was, in some measure, to be attributed to a recent visit of the cholera, after which a general whitewashing had been ordered by the government. We met a number of peasants; and, from what opportunity I had of judging, the Sclavonians appear to me to be a most sturdy race of people.

Towards afternoon we approached a country exceedingly wild and picturesque, rocks of most singular forms, a fine valley in the distance, with the Danube running through it. At night we arrived at a large village called Carlovitz, where it was our intention to stop; but although the place was full of inns, they were all so crowded that they could not receive us; and I know not what we should have done had not a Sclavonian

gentleman, who observed us going from house to house, at last offered his services, and by dint of his kindness we met with an auberge that would receive us. This stranger's attention did not stop there, for he went in the kitchen, dictated to the people what he thought we should like, and the next morning called, and took leave of us as we were departing. He spoke French fluently, and informed us he had a small property in the neighbourhood, of which he superintended the cultivation.

We had this day but a very short journey, only proceeding as far as Neussatz. I was much struck with the celebrated fort of Peterwardein, which is so noted on account of the laurels Prince Eugene there acquired against the Turks. It appeared a place of great strength, and to contain numbers of troops. Many men (convicts no doubt) were moving about the streets, chained together by the legs, some carrying burthens, others acting as scavengers. A few of the streets were regular and handsome, with very good shops, and the usual bustle reigned, incidental to a large town.

Having crossed the bridge, we entered the

town of Neussatz, and were no longer in Sclavonia, but in Hungary. The Danube here separates the two countries, Peterwardein being on the Sclavonian side, and Neussatz on the Hungarian. We were directed to a very large and handsome-looking inn, where all appeared conducted quite on the regular hotel system, and we found everything very comfortable; the beds were good, and the chambers very passable. There were two large coffee-rooms, which appeared to be always filled with guests; there were several billiard-tables, and numbers of players, and at night the place was crowded; cards, dominoes, chess, &c. were all going forward, and we entered into conversation with many pleasant and well-informed men.

There was a billiard-marker attached to the establishment, who spoke English, French, German, Hungarian, Italian, &c. &c. with astonishing fluency, and certainly was a man far superior to his station, his address and manners indicating quite another class. From him we obtained much local information: he informed us that most of the persons whom we there saw assembled were small proprietors of land, and many of them

possessors of vineyards which were highly productive and lucrative; that the greater number of them had houses in town as well as those upon their estates; that some few amongst the guests were officers who were garrisoned at Peterwardein, and who came over to Neussatz to spend their evenings. Our informant also stated that there was no lack of female society, and that numerous parties were formed every evening.

Neussatz may be considered as a large market town, rather handsome than otherwise. There is a cross which stands in a sort of square, which is singularly picturesque and pretty. The streets are of a fair width, having plenty of shops of every description; the churches are particularly fine with respect to the steeples, the architecture of which is most light and elegant throughout Hungary, even in some of the smaller villages.

We went into a Greek church, and found that Neussatz is the see of a Greek bishop; consequently, numbers of the inhabitants are of the Greek religion. Amongst the gentlemen we observed that frock coats, buttoned, embroidered, and trimmed at the bottom with fur,—preserving still something of the character of the ancient

Hungarian costume, were very prevalent. We met many ladies in the streets, some of whom were extremely pretty.

It was our wish to have pursued our journey immediately, without stopping at Neussatz; but the people of the inn advised us to wait until the next day, as there would be a farmer coming to the house, whom they knew, and in whom they could confide, who had four fine horses, and would take charge of us to Pesth. We therefore agreed to pass the night quietly in our comparatively comfortable quarters, having had a very bad specimen in our first charioteer. When we made the agreement with him at Semlin, we were told it was the custom to give something beforehand. We accordingly gave, as ordered, two pieces of five florins each. When we attempted to settle with him, the wretch absolutely vowed he had not received any thing. We, having no witness to the circumstance, could only assert in the firmest manner that which we knew to be correct. In fact, it became a match between the waggoner and us, who could swear the hardest. This scene drew many spectators around us, principally the guests of the house; and the innkeeper, (who

was quite a gentlemanly sort of fellow, and wore a very handsome fur-trimmed frock coat,) began to browbeat the fellow, till he got him to admit that he had received one five-florin piece. Then said the aubergiste, "Now you have confessed to having had one, I am sure you were paid the two, as these gentlemen stated." All the persons around us coincided in the same opinion, and we paid the balance, and sent the fellow grumbling away. Our landlord assured us that all the peasants in that country were alike,—the greatest liars and thieves that ever existed,—with the exception of our conductor elect, to whom we were to be introduced the following morning.

Amongst other intelligence that we here received, was that our surmises regarding M. Spirito having a feeling in many of the charges that were brought against us at Semlin, were in all probability quite correct, as he had the character of being, in all his transactions, as completely Greek as it was possible for man to be.

We arose early the next day, and were presented to the immaculate driver to whom we were to be consigned, and found him as sly a looking rascal as the first, and so dilatory that we had

three hours to wait for him; and after all, we found his waggon had no covering, and the weather very wet; therefore, before we started, we had to buy a tilt. At length, after many delays, and great assistance in arranging our seat in the waggon, with straw, &c., on the part of our landlord, we departed.

But I really must give the reader an idea of the ridiculously cheap charges which were made for our bed and board at Neussatz. We had, on arriving, breakfast of eggs, coffee, and bread and butter; we had a tolerable dinner of several dishes, with wine of the country, and dessert; in the evening we had tea, and breakfast again the next morning; and our whole bill only amounted to three francs and a half, making the proper calculation from florins into French money.

At our first starting the country was pleasant, and had a social air, but we often had to traverse the most uninteresting and uncultivated plains. We were always delighted to see a village, as the aspect was ever cheerful. The first stoppage we made was at the driver's own cottage, which had a very comfortable air, and his crops around it bespoke plenty. We certainly had four stout

horses, who appeared capable of pulling us through, but we sometimes found the roads more than a match for their strength.

We met numbers of the country people: the costume of the men was most singular, consisting of an immense coat reaching nearly to their heels, made of sheepskins; and in wet weather they wear the wool side outwards, which has a most rough and savage appearance, and makes them look like wild beasts. When it does not rain, or threaten to do so, they wear the skin side of their coats for the exterior, and they have them very curiously worked, by having little bits of different coloured leather let in, so as to represent flowers. On their heads they wear a large round hat, with a tremendous brim, which is turned up all round, and holds the water like a dish; so that I have seen them in hard rains every ten minutes take off their hat to empty it of its accumulation of water. They all wear large Hessian boots, their hair very long, and mustachios: their heads always put me in mind of the pictures of Oliver Cromwell.

Some of the women looked to me exactly like our own village girls,—cotton gowns, and caps,

appearing to be worn much in the same way as in England; others had jackets trimmed with fur,—appearing more foreign and picturesque. Many of the females also wear Hessian boots: I observed that they very often had pretty features, appeared active, and had rather a lively expression.

At night we got into quarters, at a place called Topolye, where they fed us passably well, and the beds were not bad, but I had no sooner got into a comfortable sleep than I was awakened by Castelli's jumping out of bed, vowing that he was going mad, that he believed that the devil himself had got into his head by his ear, and was making such a noise and confusion there, that it was past endurance; and I believed him, for he began cutting so many extraordinary capers and antics, of which I could think a maniac only would ever be guilty. At last, the thought struck me that it might be a flea which had got into his ear, as I had once seen a person, under such circumstances, as animated as Monsieur Castelli. I told him what I suspected to be the cause of his delirium, and he was partly consoled by it; but kept frisking and jumping about as much as ever. "*Quelle*

indignité," thought I to myself, for one who is a being of so much importance in his own estimation, to be dancing about the room with a flea in his ear; the effect was so ludicrous, that it was impossible to help laughing. He had on a white nightcap, with a tassel hanging down behind, and a night shirt so short, that it did not come more than two or three inches below his back, perhaps it might be the fashion at Genoa; but, altogether, I thought, as he was capering about, that he would have made an admirable subject for Cruikshank's pencil. By pouring some water into his ear, Castelli was enabled to extirpate the little demon, which had so interrupted our repose, and we both quietly returned to our beds.

The next day proved horribly wet, but as we were under cover, we proceeded on our journey. The mud was beyond description, and occasionally we encountered holes as big as graves, and stuck in them in such a manner that we sometimes thought they would prove our graves; then would our driver use all his powers of persuasion to induce the horses to go on; with tremendous energy, he roaring out, "Pasco! choco!" and, as a last resource, "Macauly;" and, at length,

the poor beasts, by one violent effort, were enabled to emerge from their mud bath; but not before they had sent some portion of it into our faces, although we sat at the back of the waggon, quite snoozled under the tilt; indeed, one patch of mud as big as a crownpiece, took up its quarters on Castelli's mouth, which I will not be sure was not open at the time, as was frequently the case; as to myself, I was made a regular cyclop, having a dab of the muck coming over one eye, so as totally to hide it.

Poor Castelli was very much annoyed at his share of the filth, and exclaimed aloud, "*Quelle voyage*, and *quelle indignité*. To be travelling through the country in a waggon, what would my family say could they know it!" and then to be all bedaubed with mud, and made in such a plight, was more than his patience could endure.

He had hardly finished this ejaculation, when our vehicle suddenly entering another great hole, gave such a jolt, that it forced us forwards from our seats, and threw us upon our noses over our trunks, which somewhat broke the force of the fall, or we should otherwise have been thrown to the bottom of the waggon. Castelli was very

much affronted at the indignity of being pitched head-foremost upon his nose; but still more so at me for laughing most outrageously, observing, that if I was made of cast-iron, and that there was not anything could hurt me, that was no reason why I should not have any feeling for others, vowing, that he was sore all over with the jolts of the waggon; at the same time dabbing his nose with his handkerchief, which bled a little from the fall, and, I believe, he was very angry that mine did not also.

A succession of these little amusing varieties entertained us throughout our travels in Hungary, and prevented our going to sleep from *ennui.*

We tarried a short time at a place called Theresianople, a very large village, almost deserving the name of town; but the rain poured down in such torrents, we were not disposed to encounter them, for the purpose of examining a place which did not appear from what we could see of it, to offer many objects of interest.

When we resumed our journey, Castelli had hardly recovered his good humour; every violent jolt of the waggon sending our heads against the tilt, which was of a sort of basket work; my brains

being enveloped in a far thicker shell than Castelli's, the shocks had little effect upon me, whilst they gave him a constant headache.

The country, generally speaking, was far from interesting, a great portion of it consisting of plains, that were uncultivated, but serving to feed immense quantities of sheep. Occasionally a pretty spot presented itself, and in some of the towns or large villages there were crosses, which were remarkably picturesque. The churches were also of an interesting character, and some of the houses richly adorned with curious ornaments, in the style of some to be found in France and England of some centuries since, but which appeared the present taste in Hungary. I saw masons at work chiselling out curious bits of cornices and frieze, merely for houses of a second class. But this renders their villages often interesting, and presents many objects fit for sketching.

At dark we arrived at a place called Helas, where we could not make them understand what we wanted, till one person addressed us in Latin, and, at length, by mustering up the little stock we had retained of that tongue, we procured all we desired. We were quartered at a large inn,


P. Herve Del.t
P. Gauci Lithog.r

where there was a good coffee-room, and we were tolerably well served. Next morning, on reckoning the score, Castelli, who always undertook that task, as being much the most capable of the two, not only found as usual that they were endeavouring to cheat us, but also discovered that our driver had been adding the keep of the horses to our account, and who on being taxed with it, admitted that he had done so all the way, although it was expressly stated in the agreement, that he was to pay for the keep of his cattle, and for himself, instead of which he had thrown all upon us, and for which we had been paying without being conscious of it.

I mention all the various particulars attending this journey, that it may teach future travellers what they may expect from waggon travelling in Hungary. We had never been much pleased with our driver, but after having found him out in having so cheated us, we liked him less than before, and he liked us no better for the discovery we had made, as he knew we would not stand it any longer, and that for the future he would have to pay for his own food, and that of his beasts. We therefore did not look very kindly at each other.

At times when the road was very good, he would only go the pace of a snail; we would try to urge him on, and Castelli making some gesticulations to that effect, which had rather an imperative appearance, the scoundrel looked him hard in the face, and then made mouths at him, which so enraged Castelli, that he would have struck the fellow if I had not interfered and prevented him.

In fact, to caution him against so doing, I related to him a circumstance which I knew to have occurred to an English gentleman, and as it is rather a failing with my countryman, that the word and the blow should proceed together when they are offended, I will call their attention to what happened in Hungary some years since. A traveller, provoked by the refusal of a post-master to let him have horses, struck him, upon which the assailed had the assailant taken before a magistrate who condemned the English gentleman to be laid upon a sort of bench they have in many of the villages in Hungary, to receive a certain number of stripes. The defendant remonstrated, then threatened through his ambassador to have the magistrate punished, who merely answered, that he might do his worst, that he had decided

according to the laws of the province in which his jurisdiction extended.

The punishment was inflicted, although the gentleman had his own carriage and servants with him; but that which had aggravated his offence in the eyes of the magistrate, and outraged the prejudices of the country, was, that the man who had been struck was noble, and that might happen to be the case even with your postillion in Hungary. The Englishman, after having been compelled to submit to the punishment, did not seek redress, not liking to publish the disgrace he had endured, but took the earliest opportunity of discharging the servants who had witnessed it, who fortunately were foreign; and thus he hoped the whole affair would be consigned to oblivion.

We stopped at a large lone house, intended for the accommodation of travellers; but in getting out before we could reach the entry, we sunk up to the ankles in mud. We had in other parts found the same circumstance very disagreeable; but never met with it quite so bad before. The landlady spoke Italian; and through her interpretation, we had some conversation with the driver,

who was very sulky, and would make no assertion as to when we should arrive at Pesth.

Through masses of mud, we again resumed our journey, and were much astonished at the extreme indelicacy of the women, who, as they waded through the dirt, took up their clothes to such a degree of indecency, that I am sure the commonest London prostitutes would not have had the audacity to have done. I was sitting in front of the waggon next the driver, when I first observed one of these shameless creatures; much surprised, I turned to him, expecting to see in his countenance and manner an equal astonishment, but found that he took no notice; and afterwards I perceived that it was the custom of the country, and that all the women of the lower class, old and young, seemed equally dead to any feeling of shame or modesty. At all the inns we stopped at, the extreme forwardness of the females was conspicuously remarkable.

Travellers really see such extraordinary things, that when they record what they have seen, their assertions are received with such a smile of incredulity, that one is almost afraid to relate what one

has actually met with, as no man likes to have his word doubted. I therefore laid violent hands upon Castelli, bidding him look at, and well examine a cross of a most singular appearance, which, on close inspection, we found to be intended for our Saviour, with a glory round his head; but they had actually dressed him in the costume of the present day, in buckskin breeches, and jockey boots. Had I not had ocular demonstration of such an absurdity, I could not have believed it; nor was I contented with the evidence of my own eyes, but requested Castelli would well satisfy himself of the fact, that he might bear testimony of the truth of my statement, in case that I should meet with any of that numerous corps of stay-at-home sceptics, who make a rule of suspecting everything is false or exaggerated, because it surpasses all which may have come within the limits of their own field of observation.

It had often happened that our driver had left us to go and drink with some friend at a public-house door, till our patience was exhausted, but on this day he had given us such an extraordinary dose of waiting whilst he was carousing, that we determined to go on, if possible, without him.

We therefore set to work, calling out "Pasco," "Chucco," and "Macauley;" but the horses would not move for us, notwithstanding we made use of some additional arguments with my whip. We would have descended to go and bully the fellow into moving, but the waggon was in a sort of slough, and had we got out, we must have been up to the calves of our legs in mud. When the driver did reappear, Castelli scolded him as hard as he was able; but all that he could elicit from the audacious rascal, was one contemptuous grin. Towards night we passed through a large, well-promising village, where we wished our driver to stop, but he would not; and we found ourselves on the plains again, in utter darkness. He had never continued to travel so late at night before.

At last we came to a house which stood quite alone, which was destined to be our quarters for the night. It was a queer, large rambling-looking place. The landlord spoke Italian fluently, though he pretended often to forget some of the commonest words. Castelli said he was convinced that the landlord was an Italian; and as he was a very ill-looking fellow, he conjectured that he was some runaway scoundrel who had been obliged to fly the country.

We went into a large room to eat our supper, and there we found a great, ferocious-looking fellow, who sat looking at us all the time we were supping. I then thought I would have my revenge upon him; and began sketching him, which made Castelli very angry, saying it was a most dangerous experiment to irritate any one in that way, at a time that he felt we were in very suspicious quarters.

A short, square man came in, dressed in a cloak, not at all in the costume of the country. He stood opposite to us, and stared us in the face so impudently, that I got up, and folding my arms (imitating his posture), and stood facing him, staring at him as much as he did at us. He then went out; but soon returned with two others, who spoke to the first man, and then stood like the others, and stared at us in the same manner as their predecessors had done before them.

Castelli did not at all like the appearances of things; and when we retreated to our bed-room, our first care was to secure our door. I did not myself see any cause of alarm, and endeavoured to persuade Castelli all was right, and he went to bed, and soon fell asleep. I had nearly followed

his example, but heard voices whispering at our door; still the circumstance did not strike me as sufficiently alarming to prevent my going to sleep.

How long I might have slept I cannot tell, when a bump at the door, as if to force it, awakened both Castelli and myself. At the instant I jumped out of bed, whilst Castelli stuck close to his, and said, "For God's sake what's to be done? we shall both be murdered!" The "First thing," I observed, "is to obtain a light; therefore, jump up, and get your matches." "But I sweat and tremble so, I can't do anything!" was his reply. However, at last I prevailed on him to find his patent igniters, and having lighted a candle, we had the advantage of being able to look about us; and as we approached the door, we could distinctly hear the breathing of more than one person. I then routed for my pistols, but when found, discovered that they had taken out the flints at the Lazaretto. However, I pretended to be cocking them, as if they were loaded. Castelli's gun was equally unprepared for combat; notwithstanding, it was still a formidable weapon.

I then told Castelli I was determined on open-

ing the door; for although I never was an amateur of hostile encounters of any description, yet I always was an advocate for bringing affairs to a crisis, where any danger threatened. I, therefore, requested him to take one pistol in his hand, when he interrupted me by saying, "*Oh, mon Dieu, je ne suis bon pour rien!*" I then begged him to get behind the door, and open it at the moment I should tell him, in such a manner that the door should screen him from the effects of the first attack. I next took his gun, and holding it by the barrel, with the butt end uplifted, I was prepared to give the first blow, which, with such a weapon, must have been a heavy one. Thus armed, I stood facing where the door must open. All this while we continued to hear the breathing most distinctly; for an instant I thought it was more powerful than that of a human being, and asked Castelli if he remembered any straw being laid near our door, or anything convenient for a dog to lie upon. He said he perfectly remembered that there was nothing of the kind, and that he was sure that the breathing we heard was that of several people; and he thought that it would be very imprudent to open the door, but that the

best thing was to keep our actual positions all night, for that it was much better to remain on the defensive, than to become the assailants.

But I was far too cold, too sleepy, and too impatient to follow that advice; therefore, begging him to keep his pistol in hand, and to look as terrible as he could, I prevailed on him to open the door in the manner I have described; and what did we then find, but two of the largest dogs I ever saw in my life. They were indeed most beautiful creatures; but appeared to take not the slightest notice of us. I expected at first they would growl, but not the least. I then spoke to them in a caressing tone, but they were equally unmoved: still the finding them there was so far serviceable, that my apprehensions were totally removed.

Castelli viewed it in a different light, and was by no means easy in his mind. I went to bed again, and slept soundly and undisturbed till the morning; but Castelli declared that he felt restless all the night through. Next morning, when we asked for the landlord, he was not to be found at first, but when we made them understand that it was because he spoke Italian, and we could not

otherwise explain ourselves, at last they showed us to the room where he was lying. His manner was very vague. When we said we were afraid we had disturbed him in the night, he replied "No; I assure you, gentlemen, I heard nothing of it. I give you my word of honour I did not hear anything whatever, but lay quietly here all night, and knew nothing of what was going forward." His manner was evidently that of one who imagined himself suspected of something, and who wished to exculpate himself.

Castelli, at this period, informed me that the people at the inn at Neussatz had apprised him that the road we were about to travel was a very dangerous one, particularly as far as Theresianople; but having passed that spot, he felt somewhat re-assured, and observed, that he would not tell me, as he knew I should load my pistols, and prepare for defence; and he was convinced that resistance only aggravated the danger.

From what we learned afterwards, we had reason to believe that our alarm was not without a cause, and that the intention, at any rate, was to have robbed us, and perhaps to have taken our lives, if they could have done it quietly as we lay in our

beds; but when they found us disposed for resistance, they relinquished their intention, as the noise and uproar would have been such in the struggle, as might so easily have led to discovery, should any one have been passing within hearing of the house; not that they could have felt any doubt as to the issue of the contest, as there were at least five of them. In fact, we had seen that number, and a youth.

We were also informed that the gentlemen of the country, who often travelled in similar waggons as that in which we had been jolted for the last week, adopted the precaution of carrying a blunderbuss between their knees, and that if more than one person at a time attempted to approach the vehicle, that they let fly at them without waiting for questions. In fact, we understood that that part of Hungary was in such a state, that there were bands of brigands, who would write to some of the country gentlemen, saying that if they did not deposit so much corn, wine, and other articles, with a certain sum of money, at a spot specified, that they should have cause to repent it.

These mandates, it appears, were generally obeyed, as the only means of preserving the pro-

perties and lives of those families who received such warnings.

We were no sooner in full trot on the road, than I perceived that Castelli was in higher spirits and better humour than I had seen him for some time. He was so delighted at getting away from that den of thieves, as he styled it, in a whole skin. Our conductor was also more civil than before, and promised us that we should be at Pesth by night, which was indeed cheering news. The country continued still very uninviting; and the poor horses had the greatest difficulty to drag us through many places where the waggon sunk to the naves of the wheels.

At last we arrived at a house, where we were to refresh. It stood alone, and had a most solitary and miserable appearance. We had, as usual, to descend in the mud, and wade through it to reach the house; but one dry spot I observed was always kept comparatively clean, on which the horses regularly roll, as soon as they are unharnessed.

We were very hungry, but could not eat. The only fare the house afforded was some pork fat, which was fried; and the bread was so bad; we tried, but could not get it down. We, there-

fore, re-entered our waggon, with empty stomachs; but were soon gratified by seeing in the extreme distance the mountains behind Buda. Soon after the most elevated buildings were visible. The country became picturesque and pleasant; the roads cheerful. Pesth at length rose before us; and about dark we entered that beautiful city.

Castelli having passed some days there at an inn that he was pleased with, we wished to instal ourselves at the same; but as he could not recollect its sign, or its locality, we had great difficulty in finding it, and hacking the waggon about from street to street, did not at all please the driver. However, by the assistance of some gentlemen passing by, we found it, and there took up our quarters.

CHAPTER XXIII.

GOOD INN—PESTH—BUDA, OR OFFEN—CONCERT—THEATRE—STEAMER ON THE DANUBE—PASSENGERS—COMFORTLESS NIGHT—PRESBURG—IMPOSITIONS AT THE INNS—CROWDED WITH CUSTOMERS—ARRIVAL AT VIENNA—EMBARRASSMENT—IMPUDENT COACHMAN—FINE CITY—ITS PALACES—CHURCHES—CARRIAGES—SKELETONS OF SAINTS—BELVIDERE—THE PRATER—STATE OF THINGS IN AUSTRIA—ESPIONAGE—DREAD OF LIBERAL SENTIMENTS—INJUSTICE—THE LATE EMPEROR—CUSTOM-HOUSE ANNOYANCE—ALMS LIBERALLY BESTOWED—CONSTANT PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES—DEPARTURE FROM VIENNA—SALTZBURG—CHURCH WITH FIVE ORGANS—FRONTIERS OF BAVARIA—MUNICH—ODD SYSTEM OF HAY-MAKING—CARLSRUHE—GERMAN IMPOSITIONS—THEIR COLD INSOLENCE—AMUSING ENGLISHMAN—HIS DROLL MISTAKES, AND ALTERCATION WITH A GERMAN—CONCLUDING REMARKS—RECENT WORKS ON GREECE AND TURKEY—DIFFERENCE OF OPINION—MEANS OF OBTAINING INFORMATION—SOURCES, AUTHENTIC OR OTHERWISE—A *Lady's* DESCRIPTION.

At length, fixed in a comfortable inn, we were in a mood to appreciate all its advantages, but first dispatched our driver, who was disposed to extort from us a farther sum than we had agreed

to give him; but some gentlemen interfering, he gave up the point, and they sent him away, telling him that he ought to be very well satisfied in having a new tilt to his waggon, which we had paid for, and allowed him to retain.

We found the beds at the inn very excellent, and the chambers the same. Several large coffee or dining rooms, handsome billiard tables, and crowds of gentlemen frequenting the house from morning till night. There was, besides, a large room devoted to the beer drinkers, and which seemed occupied by persons of an inferior class. We found that the steam-boat which was to convey us to Presburg would not depart till Monday morning; therefore, as it was on the Friday evening that we arrived, ample time was afforded for us to view the city and its suburbs.

Pesth and Buda are merely divided from each other by the Danube, and a bridge of boats is the means of communication between them. I was quite surprised to find in Pesth so beautiful a city; many of the streets are equal to those of Bath; new buildings were erecting of the handsomest description. The shops are mostly well furnished with articles of every kind; and many of them

fitted up in very good taste. The hackney coaches were the best I have seen any where, both as regards the vehicles and the horses.

We next went to see Buda, or, as the Germans call it, Offen, which is a city quite of another description from that of Pesth, being quite in the old style. The Prince Palatine has a palace there, built on an eminence which commands a view that is highly interesting. You quite look down upon Pesth, and trace the Danube for some distance. The walks about the palace are pretty, if only from their situation, but appeared little frequented.

Buda has almost as dull an appearance as Pesth has the reverse. The former is the ancient capital of Hungary; but I did not find any particularly interesting remains of antiquity in it during the short time I had to explore it; neither did our *cicerone* mention any monument much worthy our attention, besides the palace and the observatory. Some of the churches and public buildings are rather handsome.

On the evening after our arrival, a concert was given in the great room of the inn where we were staying, by a musical society of amateurs; and,

though we were total strangers, we were invited. We, at first declined, as we were in our travelling costumes, and our trunks being packed up, we did not wish to disturb them for the sake of a few hours. But our inviters would not hear of any excuse; therefore we went roughly clad as we were. The performers executed the overture to Der Freischutz, and several of Rossini's pieces in very good style.

The following evening we went to the theatre, and saw the Somnambula. The performance was respectable; but the house looked very dismal, being so poorly lighted that we could not see the countenance even of the person who sat next to us. This is the custom in some parts of the Continent, and in my opinion takes off much from the pleasure of the theatres, as it appears to me that the brilliant display of the house and audience forms one of its attractive charms.

On retiring we had given orders to be called at six the next morning, that we might be in time for the departure of the steam-boat; and we received the most positive assurances that we should be awakened at the stated hour. But faithless to their promises, I heard the clock strike

the hour of summons, and no one came near us; and it was with difficulty we could get our bill settled, the overcharges struck off, and our trunks and effects on board in time.

We found a great number of passengers assembled on deck, and amongst them some extremely agreeable and well informed men, including several young Hungarian gentlemen; and I certainly must admit that I never, anywhere, met with men of more amiable manners than the well-educated Hungarians; ever ready to assist and oblige a traveller, always willing to enter into conversation, and to communicate that information which they judged might be useful or agreeable to their auditors. The peasantry, on the contrary, we found surly, disposed to be insolent, and imposing whenever an opportunity offered.

I did not generally find the banks of the Danube so picturesque as I had expected. Occasionally there were some very interesting positions; and now and then the towers of an old castle would lend their aid to complete the picture; but the greater part of the scenery was but mediocre.

The cabin was a hot, crowded, busy scene, where cards, chess, dominos, &c., were going forward.

Amongst the passengers were two English gentlemen; the one was Lord Claude H——, the other his friend. The first was one of the most intelligent young men I ever met with, In fact, I could hardly have supposed him to have been so young as the age his friend stated him to be, not imagining it possible that at his years he could have acquired so much general information. His companion had also travelled far, and had availed himself of all the advantages which a polished education affords, in regard to the observations he had made, and in his manner of communicating them to others. They left us about ten at night to proceed by land, and I much regretted the loss of their society.

I descended into the cabin, and there found that every one had already cuddled themselves to sleep, and had occupied every bench, stool, or chair that was to be found. I therefore had the bare ground alone on which I could lay my bones. I thought of my journey through Turkey, and would have been glad of some hay or straw to have lain upon. I never passed a more disagreeable night; besides not sleeping, I felt the cold most severely. All the other passengers were

wrapped up in immense cloaks, which served them to lie upon, and wherewith to cover themselves besides; but I, coming from a warm climate, had not taken the same precautions. I never was more pleased at the sight of coming day-light when I mounted the deck, and paced it until I got warm; Castelli and others soon joining me.

All were much disappointed at hearing we should not be able to reach Presburg till the next day, and I began to anticipate the horrors of another night; but I had a friend at court, who took compassion on me. The engineer was an Englishman, and I am sorry I now forget his name; a more kind civil fellow never lived, and at night he would insist upon my getting into his bed, which was in a nice little room fitted up on the deck, assuring me if I did not make use of it he should not, as he would be attending to the engine all night; he, besides, lent me Bulwer's Devereux, to amuse myself till I got to sleep. Castelli peeped in at me, and quite envied me my comfortable quarters.

The next morning we landed at Presburg, which certainly is a fine handsome town, though not quite equal to Pesth. We were anxious to get to

Vienna; but only one place in the diligence being vacant, I ceded it to Castelli, who started at night, and I continued walking about exploring the different quarters of the town.

They have a handsome public walk, some fine wide streets, and noble-looking buildings. Here the diet of Hungary sits, which was proceeding whilst I was there; and I met some of the members coming from it in costume. There is still the fine old castle standing, in which are deposited the regalia of Hungary, consisting of the crown and sceptre of Stephen, their first king.

The next morning I was up before daylight; the waiter had, as usual, promised to call me in time for the coach, and, as usual, committed a breach of faith. And at last I was obliged to call the waiter, who did not bring me my account until all the passengers were seated in the coach, and the driver bellowing to me to make haste, and declaring he would start without me. Hence, when the bill did arrive, I had no time to correct the errors in it, which, as we had ever found in Hungary, were in the landlord's favour; and when I afterwards submitted it to Castelli's inspection, he having ever been the auditor of accounts, he

found they had charged us for what we never had, they had added up wrongly, making the amount more than it ought to be, and they had given me too little change.

This was what I call triple cheating, and appeared to be a system so well understood, from constant practice, in Hungary and Germany, that I found at all the inns at which I stopped in these countries, they appeared *au fait* at this profitable mode of reckoning. I found the road from Presburg to Vienna all that was brisk and amusing, many villages, here and there an old castle, handsome seats, picturesque grounds, and generally some object to arrest the attention.

We stopped at a large village at the same time that a host of other vehicles, some that were preceding, others following us, also drew up; all discharging their passengers at the inn where we were to refresh. The consequence was, that it was crowded to such an excess that even standing room could not be obtained; and I understand that the other auberges were similarly thronged with people. This arises from the system that exists in Germany of limiting the number of each trade to so few, that each of the privileged persons makes

fortunes, but the public is not so well served as if all were open to fair competition. After a great deal of bustle I obtained a cutlet, but many persons left the house when the coaches were ready, unable to procure anything.

About dusk we approached Vienna; but before I entered it they took from me my box of drawings, sketches, &c., and which I never saw again until some weeks after my arrival in London. I remonstrated as well as I could against their depriving me of it; but the custom-house seals were upon it, therefore they were inexorable, giving me a ticket, where they directed me to apply for it in Vienna.

I had not proceeded much further before a note was thrown into our vehicle, which proved to be from Castelli. It had been agreed that I was to find him at the Goldenen Oxen, an inn he had been accustomed to frequent; but on arriving there in the morning he found it was shut up: he therefore directed me to proceed to the Wilderman. On quitting the diligence I took a hackney coach with another gentleman, who was set down at his own door, he directing the coachman to the Wilderman, but must have mistaken the house,

as he sent us quite in another direction. For my part I thought I was going to be driven about Vienna all night; the coachman asking several passengers, who appeared to send us all manner of ways. At last we really got to the Wilderman; but when I asked for Castelli they vowed that there was no such person there. That there was I insisted, and that there was not they persisted, but said they thought he might be at another inn, somewhat higher up. I began to feel very uncomfortable, fearing I might not find Castelli, imagining that there must be some mistake which I could not comprehend. I went to the inn to which I had been directed, and, as I imagined, no one had there heard of him. I then returned to the Wilderman, and made so much noise that I brought all belonging to the house about me; and one person at last admitted that Castelli was in the house, and, in much suspense, had been waiting for, and wondering what had become, of me.

Having given the coachman so much trouble, I gave the rascal half as much as his fare for himself, and thought I was very generous; but he thought otherwise, and demanded more, abusing

me most ferociously because I would not comply; and when he found no words would move me, he attempted to detain one of my trunks, which I snatched from him. The wretch then shook his fist at me; I raised my whip to strike him; he would have desired nothing better; but I checked myself in time. We had many spectators, principally persons belonging to or at the inn, but all sided with the coachman against me. Hence the difference I have ever found in Germany and France. In the latter, if any of the lower orders are inclined to be impudent, the better class would always take the part of the stranger; whereas in the former, even the gentlemen would sustain the insolence of their boors against the traveller.

At length, after all my troubles, I got comfortably installed in the Hôtel de Wilderman, Castelli having provided all that was necessary to render our quarters agreeable. He had been as much discomfited as I had, having arrived at Vienna at five o'clock in the morning. The inn at which he stopped was uninhabited, and he had to walk the streets till daylight, when the cold was unusually severe. At last he was obliged to

make his appearance at the family of his friend, a merchant of some eminence, who recommended him to the auberge where we at present were stationed.

Breakfast over, we sallied forth to view the city, which certainly has some most imposing features. The various palaces of the different noble families, whose illustrious names have been long familiar to our ears, have a grand though heavy appearance. The stranger's eye is caught by some magnificent edifice, and he is informed that it is the palace of the House of Lichtenstein—another, of Schwartzenburg, or Metternich, &c. There is a sort of frowning solemnity which reigns throughout the air of these buildings, which have a most imposing and aristocratic effect. I have often thought how insignificant the exterior of the houses of our nobility appear in London,—mere upright walls with square holes in them for windows,—whilst the residences of the nobles at Vienna, and many other towns on the continent, are adorned by statues, have lofty arched gateways, massive columns, rich cornices, and other decorations which give an air of pride and grandeur to the mansions of the great.

The church of St. Etienne particularly attracted my attention: the tower, after that of Strasburg, is, I believe, considered to be the highest in Europe. It is a singularly fine Gothic pile, and I was so fond of admiring it, that I generally used to make it in my way wherever I might be going, whenever I went out. I always was partial to sauntering down the long aisles of cathedrals. I know not whether it produces the same effect which it has upon others, but there is, for me, a delicious calm, a solemn stillness, in those vast monastic edifices, which engenders a tone of thought that I cannot describe, and often have wondered whether persons in general have felt the same sensation which I have, and in which I have found a greater charm than in any other pleasure of life,—particularly when the chaunting has been going forward, and the softened tones of the human voice divine have been echoed from the vaulted roof; the subdued light through the painted window, the hollow sound of steps pacing along the gloomy cloister, all tend to attune the feelings to the harmony of repose.

In another of the churches there is a monument, most highly worthy the attention of the

artist and the amateur: it is from the chisel of Canova. Four periods of life are introduced—extreme age, manhood, youth, and infancy. Whilst I was examining the exquisite proportions and classic taste displayed in so beautiful a group, a grand Te Deum was performing in the most splendid style, and the vocal and instrumental powers, which were pouring forth the strains of praise, altogether combined to produce the sublimest effect.

To me it would have been a treat of the highest class, if it had not been for Castelli, who kept twitching me by the elbow, wanting me to go with him and look at a carriage which he had just bought. Accordingly, for peace and quietness' sake I went to a large manufactory of vehicles of various descriptions. The one he had purchased was a handsome family carriage, capable of containing six persons, including every convenience that ingenuity could devise; the linings, the lamps, the coach-box, the servants' seat, were all of the handsomest of the kind,—at least apparently. I entered the vehicle, and examined it in every nook and corner, endeavouring to find a blemish, but in vain; as, when I heard the price, I could

not conceive but that there must be something concealed, which must account for the very low charge that was demanded,—being only seventy pounds. The only denial belonging to it appeared to me that it was rather heavy, but extremely brilliant, solid, and dashing to look at;—they had numbers of similar carriages at the same price.

In one of the churches,—I do not exactly remember which,—they have the skeletons of saints stretched out on the sarcophagi of different tombs. The body is covered over with gold and silver lace, which is twined about the ribs, &c.; but the skull is left bare, grinning at you in all its death-like horror,—forming a disgusting contrast to the gaudy and idle trappings with which vanity, superstition, and fanaticism have decked the other parts of these mortal ruins. Amongst these venerated skeletons I noticed the name of St. George;—indeed, their respective cognomens are written over each of them.

The manner in which these holy bones are procured is somewhat amusing. The court or government of Vienna send to Rome, stating that they want a saint or two, as that city is supposed to be the best market for that kind of article; but

that is an error, as the predecessors of the present Pope sold off all their old stock of saints; but as the demand still continued, the court of Rome, from a pure feeling of true benevolence, did not like that such pious people should be disappointed, and, with much acuteness, hit upon a plan for comforting the holy zeal of the court of Vienna.

There is a sort of charnel-house at Rome, in which they deposit the bodies of thieves, malefactors, &c.; from one of these they therefore select a skeleton of fair proportions, say a few prayers over it, give it a blessing, and pack it off to their credulous purchasers, receiving a large sum for it in return. This spec they have carried on to great advantage with different countries, for many years.

The Belvidere palace is a noble building, erected for Prince Eugene, in which there is a very valuable collection of pictures,—some of the finest specimens of Rubens I have seen any where,—and many others of the different schools of the old masters; but numbers there are with the names attached to them of artists, who, could they rise from their graves, would indeed be indignant, could they see the rubbish that was attributed

to their pencils. Here also are exhibited the performances of the modern artists, which display a very considerable degree of merit; but, I should still say, one grade lower than that of England or France.

In the evening we went to an amateur concert, and heard some vocal duetts, trios, choruses, &c., executed in very good style. It is astonishing how generally the Germans are good musicians, and how rare to find a man amongst them who has not some idea of harmony, and cannot derive pleasure from it, even in the lowest classes.

The public walks at Vienna are extremely fine, and palaces appear to rise before you whichever way you turn. There are some fine squares, and many noble public buildings; the imperial palace is a large heavy-looking fabric, and many of those edifices have a sort of gloomy frowning appearance; most of the streets are narrow, and the houses high, which adds to that dark heavy aspect which pervades the greater part of Vienna.

The Prater is a sort of extensive park, and is frequented as a promenade by pedestrians, equestrians, and carriages. We dined the next day with a Mr. Miller, a merchant, a friend of M. Castelli,

living in very good style: our means of communication was the French language, which the family spoke fluently. Their mode of living, the supply of the table, &c., appeared to be much in the same manner as similar classes to themselves in Paris are accustomed to; their education and information would bear the same comparison.

Hitherto, wherever I had been, I only heard the most extravagant praises of the late deceased emperor, and expressions of the utmost approbation of the existing government and actual state of things. But having a letter to a Mr. B., an English gentleman, I was enlightened on the subject in a very different manner, who assured me, that although all the persons I might meet with should sing the praises of the Austrian sway, yet it was from no other motive than that of fearing to express their sentiments, as the espionage system is carried to that excess, that a dozen persons could hardly meet together without there being a conviction throughout the party, that they have a spy or agent of the government amongst them. Almost all the *valets de place* are in its pay, and are required to give information as to what houses and society their masters frequent, and how they occupy

their time: this he assured me must have been the case with myself, as well as all other strangers; that it would be known where and how I had passed my time, and as I had not been near any obnoxious persons, and occupied myself very innocently, I should in all probability have the word harmless written after my name, so that at any future period should I again appear at Vienna, they would turn to my name, which would have its place in its alphabetical station, and finding the flattering appellation after it would suffer me to go my ways unmolested.

Mr. B. also informed me of the mischief which accrued from that unjust system of allowing only a limited number of the same business: hence, the tyranny of the tradespeople over their customers; the butcher will not let you select what joint you wish, and the baker tells you what bread you may have, unless, indeed, you may be a person of the highest rank; if you murmur, the answer is then go to another, and if you follow that advice, you will be served the same. These butchers, bakers, grocers, &c., make large fortunes, and all having obtained the privilege or patent, either by purchase or otherwise, of following any

branch of business, naturally uphold this system of monopoly, or exclusiveness, as it insures them the means of rapidly gaining competence; but it is the public that suffer, and more especially the poor.

The vigilant and incessant anxiety to suppress every liberality of feelings is conspicuous in every branch connected with the government. The answer of the emperor to an address from one of the universities, which has been echoed throughout all the newspapers in Europe, wherein he says, "I do not want learned men in my dominions; what I require are obedient subjects;" is the sum and substance of the principles upon which Austria wishes to govern; hence, any man who happens to be suspected of possessing any sentiment, not thoroughly accordant with ultra-absolutism, is immediately made to feel the disapprobation of the monarch and his ministers.

A powerful instance of this occurred shortly prior to my arrival at Vienna. A professor, who held a lucrative appointment, and whose talents had long been the admiration of the public, had in one of his lectures expressed some idea which rather savoured of more liberality of feeling than

the Government thought consistent with their system of policy, it therefore determined to remove him; but fearful of irritating the people by a disgraceful dismissal of their favourite, they appointed the obnoxious gentleman as librarian, a situation in which the pecuniary advantages were as great as the one of which he had been deprived; but in the latter, he was placed in a position wherein he would never again have an opportunity of appearing before the public.

I shall state yet one other circumstance, proving how political feeling predominates, absorbing every idea of equity and justice. An obscure individual wishing to curry favour with the government, got up a string of accusations against a high literary character, who filled some post in a public department, but who, it was feared, had been slightly inoculated by the liberal mania. One of the charges brought against the accused was, that when he removed from the government office to his private apartments, he conveyed thither some of the furniture of the bureau, which belonged to the state. The calumniated man indignantly repelled the malicious falsehood, and proved his innocence satisfactorily to all parties, and then

demanded that justice be done upon his accuser. "No," said the emperor; "if I punish men, who bring me information, because they have been deceived, I shall never know what is going forward. Who would give me intelligence of what they hear in the world, if the fear hung over them, that if their news be not exactly correct, they must suffer for it. You have cleared yourself, and that is all that need concern you in the affair."

Yet it must generally I think be admitted, that the emperor was a mild, amiable man, easy of access, and ready to hear grievances, and promise redress which he intended to fulfil; but as that redress was always referred to his ministers, it seldom or never was granted. Yet, on the whole, his subjects appeared to me to be well clothed, and well fed, and mostly inclined to be very saucy.

In order to proceed to Paris, my passport was required to be signed by the following ambassadors, the English, French, Bavarian, Wirtemberg, and Baden, as also by the police of Austria; this creates an awkward detention to a traveller that is hurried, as sometimes it is difficult to obtain the signature of more than one in a day. My little

box of pictures I applied for in vain at the custom-house, Mr. Miller sending one of his clerks with me, and afterwards we went to the barrier, and there could not find it; ultimately, Mr. Miller himself accompanied me to the custom-house, and gave directions for it to be forwarded to Strasburg, and from thence transmitted to Paris. It appeared that all the expense I had incurred on account of my drawings, I might reclaim, having arisen from the ignorance of the officers at Semlin. But finding that I must petition and go through a variety of ceremonies and delay, I preferred submitting to the first loss.

Amongst the ornaments of Vienna are a number of statues, which are extremely good. All are of much about the same period; but those of more recent date, with the exception of some delightful specimens of Canova and Thorwalsden, are but indifferent. Why is it that the art of sculpture should have thus retrograded here, and at several other places, it is most powerfully exemplified. There is much breadth and spirit in many statues at Paris, the works of about a century and a half back; whereas the more modern are far inferior to them in symmetry and

taste. In London the same remark is applicable. How fine is the equestrian statue of Charles the First, at Charing Cross, and several others of the same epoch, or a little later; and what are those statues which they have stuck up in the new streets and squares?—the greater part of them beneath mediocrity.

Although only the beginning of November when I was at Vienna, the cold was extremely severe, and people were wrapped up in immense cloaks, with a profusion of fur. I was much amused by observing a great variety of costume amongst the peasantry, according to the different provinces from whence they came. Of misery I saw but few symptoms.

Charity, that great staff of arbitrary government, is, I understand, most profusely dispensed in Austria; that is, when I state charity, I mean in the common-place acceptation of the word, and not in its sublimest view,—which is, unfortunately, but too rarely comprehended. Alms, perhaps, best express my meaning, which are most liberally bestowed, and ever tend to increase the dependent feeling of the poor. When a man receives payment as compensation for his labour, it contri-

butes to the independence of his character; but when he receives unearned gratuity, it degrades him in the eyes of himself.

Notwithstanding all the endeavours of Austria to the contrary, the seeds of liberalism have been sown throughout the country, and are germinating. Too many young Englishmen are scattered about the different universities of Germany, not to disseminate the advantages of a free and unreserved government, and excite a desire in the youth of the country to see their own institutions assimilated to those of England; whilst the means adopted to smother this rising feeling are unremittingly enforced in every corner of the empire.

Just after the three glorious days at Paris, as they are termed, the Austrian court were in a regular fright, and several advantages were conceded to the people. An octroi on poultry, which had been found rather obnoxious, was withdrawn, and many similar exactions were remitted; but no sooner was calm thoroughly and solidly re-established, than all the petty oppressions were restored. In fact, the imperial government feel that they have a volcano beneath them; their precautionary measures are always in activity,

and their apprehensions ever on the *qui vive.* Notwithstanding all the various shades of political feeling, I found all concur in admitting the very estimable qualities of the Archduke Charles, and the transcendent abilities of Metternich, as a minister.

After a short but agreeable sojourn at Vienna, I prepared for departure, and had some difficulty in resisting Castelli's persuasions to take a seat in his carriage, and proceed with him as far as Milan, and take that route to Paris,—endeavouring to prove that it was as quick a means of getting there as by Strasburg. On this geographical point we were at issue; and I, persevering in my first intention, took leave of Castelli, and I must own, not without much regret, as, whatever failings might fall to his share, he possessed one quality capable of redeeming a host of foibles,—and that was a good heart, which covereth a multitude of sins. He and my English friend accompanied me to the bureau from whence the mails, &c. started, and I took my seat in what we should designate the stage-coach, but which also took the letters, and the Germans call the seil-waggon. I was shut in with the conductor, who

getting out at every stage, throughout the night, let in, every two hours, a new portion of cold. The morning light opened to my view a pretty country half covered with snow.

We passed through the towns of Ens and Linz,—the latter rather a handsome place, and not devoid of interest, seated on the Danube; but our approach to Saltzburg displayed one of the most beautiful scenes that the imagination could picture. The grand outline of the Tyrolean mountains cut boldly against the horizon, whilst those which were nearer rose in wild fantastic forms, behind the venerable towers and spires of the city. The river Saltza meandered through the dale at the base of the different hills which on all sides skirted the Landwagee; the most picturesque farm-houses, surrounded by orchards, were scattered through the valley; whilst amongst the clumps of high trees the stately chateau showed its dark walls, frowning in all the gloom of feudal pride; and, hard by, the humble cot scarce reared its lowly roof, but added its link of social charms to the chain of interesting objects which abounded on every side.

As soon as I had descended from the vehicle in

which I had long been closely penned, I proceeded to explore the streets of Saltzburg, and, as usual, first sought the churches, accompanied by a fellow passenger,—a very fine young man from Venice, of a most prepossessing and gentlemanly appearance. The cathedral of St. Rupert first attracted our notice,—a fine old building, and having the extraordinary peculiarity of possessing five organs, which, I understand, are all played on certain days of the year. We next visited a church which had a still more ancient appearance,—I think called St. Peter's,—having a building near it, which we understood to be a monastery.

An immense archway has been cut through the solid rock, to a considerable height, through which the public road passes; from the top of which icicles hung of twenty feet in length: one fell whilst we were looking up at them, a few yards from us, with an immense crash, the noise of which was much increased by the deep hollow echo, which responded even to the slightest step or breath. How strange appeared to me the suddenness and intensity of the cold, whilst I still carried on my cheek the scar of a wound burnt by

the power of the sun but a few weeks before, when on my route from Constantinople. But I must advise my readers, if they ever travel in hot climates, to have a broad-brimmed hat, which may in some degree shade the face, and protect it from the scorching rays of the sun. I, with my usual improvidence, had only furnished myself with a little round fur cap, and bitterly suffered from my want of precaution.

Saltzburg, being a great thoroughfare, has rather a busy, active appearance. The population has been estimated at twenty thousand; but, from the extent of the city, I should judge that at present there must be considerably more than that number.

Shortly after resuming our journey, we were stopped at nightfall on the frontiers of Bavaria, to have our baggage searched; and, as they have no house, or even shed, on the spot, the whole operation went on in the middle of the road. Can any thing be imagined more disagreeable? Fortunately the examination was as slight and rapid as the traveller could desire.

I was very much pleased with Munich or Minchin, as the Germans call it, and regretted much

that I had not time to see all its wonders; it certainly is a city of the handsomest class. The public buildings are splendid, the houses are high, and have many of them a noble air, and the streets are of a good width. The museum, cabinet of curiosities, and the collection of pictures are justly celebrated throughout Europe. In fact, there are so many objects of the highest interest, that no traveller *en passant* can attempt to give any description that could render them justice. I shall therefore leave it to abler hands, and those who have had better opportunities, and longer time than myself to view its attractions, to descant upon their merits.

I was here joined by a countryman, a Mr. Robinson, who travelled with me to Paris, and who proved a very intelligent and agreeable companion. As we journeyed through Bavaria, I was much amused with observing the very absurd notion the people of the country have of making hay: it was about the middle of November, and the hay was all out in the fields hanging upon little poles, rather higher than a man; these sticks or long staves, or stakes, it appears are stuck in the ground, and they then throw the hay upon

them. At a distance the effect is that of human figures; so much so, that at first I thought that a row of these queer kind of hay cocks, very far off, was a procession of monks. The intense stupidity of such a system of haymaking was to me quite marvellous; in most countries the greatest care is taken, if possible, to get the hay in without its having had any wet: but a Bavarian, who was in the coach, and who defended their system of husbandry, declared that they found that the rain did the hay a great deal of good, as it washed the sourness out of it, and therefore they left it exposed to the weather until they considered it was thoroughly purified.

I traversed the rest of Germany with such rapidity, that it would be impossible for me to attempt to describe scenes which I saw in so hurried a manner. We passed through the towns of Augsburg, Ulm, and Stuttgard, and at Carlsruhe, we stopped a few hours, which gave us time to visit the churches, and the palace of the grand Duke of Baden, which do not possess any remarkable attractions; the streets and town in general appeared remarkably neat and quiet. The inn at which we were staying was passably comfortable,

and, indeed, I found many such in Germany; but frequently a strong disposition on the part of the innkeepers and waiters to impose. The money is very difficult for a stranger to calculate, as it differs in value in almost every province, or at least in each state; hence, the traveller is often cheated in receiving change, as it is so puzzling for any one that is not accustomed to count up correctly all the small coins, that after bothering over it a short time, one pockets what is offered, relying on the honesty of the dealer, and thankful for what one can get.

One instance of extortion amused us exceedingly. An Italian gentleman, at the sort of *table d'hôte* where we all dined, asked for some cheese, that he wished to scrape into his vermicelli soup; it was a long time before they produced it, and then brought in a piece of three or four pounds, and when we each paid our stipend for our dinners, they charged the Italian for the whole lump of cheese; he at first remonstrated, but finding it useless, he determined to take the cheese with him, and afterwards gave it to the conducteur.

At the inn where Castelli and myself were staying at Vienna, there was one large dining-

room where every one dined at separate tables, as at a restaurateur's. We requested to have our bill for what we ate or drank every day; but, although they promised we should, they never would comply. At last, when we came to sum up, prior to departure, we found many things charged which we never had, making a difference of about fourteen florins. At first they persisted that all was right, and that the mistake was ours, but on our persisting, and proving to them that we had taken notes each day, they began to yield; but when we observed to the clerk of the house, who arranged all the cash settlements, that we had requested to have one account each day, his reply was very candid, saying, "Oh, but they will never do that, as they could never then charge for any thing beyond what you really had, without your immediately perceiving it." This at once explains, that, the constant errors in the bills, are not from mistakes, but from system; and this was at one of the first hotels at Vienna. Marshal Bourmont, the conqueror of Algiers, with his two sons, were at the same inn, and used to dine at the table next to ours. The young men (particularly one of them whom I had often seen at Paris), have a gentle-

manly appearance; but the father has more the air of a hosier or haberdasher, than of a high military commander.

The cool insolence of the lower class of Germans often irritated me. At one village where we stopped to refresh, I remained an instant after the other passengers, to receive my change, and when I descended I found the diligence had started, no one giving me the slightest notice. Mr. Robinson endeavoured to make the conducteur wait for me, but in vain. I ran after the vehicle, and fortunately overtook it; the conducteur opening the door with all possible coolness, and without the slightest expression either by look, word, or manner, that could indicate the least care at leaving me behind; as I could not speak German, I could not scold him, but I looked at him as blackly as my physiognomy would permit, which appeared to make about as much impression upon him as it would upon the diligence itself. I was much surprised to find the manners of the lower orders so brutal in arbitrary governments, where corporal punishment is applied on every trivial occasion, I, on the contrary, expected to meet with the most servile civility from them; but

certainly Hungary and Germany are instances to the contrary, as in both those countries rudeness and indifference appear to be the most striking characteristics of the peasantry.

For respectful attention at inns and shops, or in travelling, there is no country equal to England, although you must pay highly for it, yet you feel that you have your money's worth; in France, on the whole, one meets with civility, but it is of a more familiar kind, and they do things for you, more as if you were a friend or equal (bordering sometimes on impertinence), than as if it were service paid. But the German will take care not to give you an atom more of labour or civility than you exactly pay for, and that is accorded in a sluggish sulky manner.

We had approached within a few leagues of Strasburg, when we had to turn out to change coaches, when an incident occurred, which afforded us so much mirth that I cannot think of denying my readers their share of the joke. The operation of coach-changing had been effected, and we were all regularly installed in the new vehicle, and ready to start for Strasburg, when a kind-hearted Englishman entered, and appearing in good

humour with all the world, was no sooner seated, than he shewed his inclination to garrulity when he discerned two countrymen, and began by asking what time we should get to Mayence? We replied, that we were not going to Mayence, but exactly proceeding in the contrary direction, as the coach in which we then were, was bound for Strasburg. "Oh, dear no," replied our new acquaintance, "I have just got out of the Strasburg coach, having come from that city where I have been staying for some weeks, and I am now going to pass sometime at Mayence, for which place this diligence is now preparing to start."

Mr. Robinson and I then appealed to the other passengers, who all assured him if he continued where he then was, he would certainly be taken back to Strasburg. At last he began to be convinced; and then said, "Well, gentlemen, why should not I, then, go back to Strasburg? I like Strasburg very much, and spent a very pleasant time there, and shall be pleased to see it again, though it is only a few hours since I left it."

To this new idea we could not but agree. If he liked to go back again, there could be no pos-

sible objection. At that moment the conducteur put his head in; I was about to ask him where the diligence was really going, in order to convince the wrong-headed Englishman that he was at fault; but he directly laid his hand upon me, begging I would not say a word, "Or," said he, "they won't let me return to Strasburg, but make me go to Mayence, for which place I have paid my fare." I then asked him what he would do about his effects. "Oh! they will go to Mayence," replied he; "but I can send for them when I want them."

At last the conducteur appeared with a passenger, stating that there was some mistake, and that some one had got in whose place had not been booked. "Hush! hush!" said the Englishman, putting his finger to his lips, to induce us to preserve silence; but all would not do. The conducteur poked his lantern up into our faces, and soon recognized the interloper, and made him such unequivocal signs that he must abdicate his seat, that at last the poor Englishman very ruefully said, "Oh! gentlemen, I am afraid now I must bundle out: good bye; I should have much enjoyed travelling in your company to Strasburg,

but I suppose now I must go to Mayence;" and he took leave of us quite in dudgeon.

But we had not done with him then, as, just as we were about to start, our bewildered countryman came running up to the diligence with a hat, roaring out, "Gentlemen! Gentlemen; one of you have forgotten a hat, which I found in the Mayence coach, where you must have left it behind." Now as we never had any thing to do with the vehicle to which he alluded, we could have no pretensions to the vacant hat, and disclaimed it accordingly; but as he was trotting back with it, a German fixed his eye upon it, to whom, no doubt, the hat belonged; and a most ludicrous scene followed. The German snatched at it, whilst the Englishman held it fast, determined to replace the property whence he had taken it; with equal right and tenacity the German kept his hold of what he knew to be his own: and no doubt must have had no very exalted opinion of the Englishman whom he saw running away with another man's hat. As neither of the disputants could speak any language that was intelligible to the other, no explanation could take place; but each vociferated loudly in their own

tongue. How the affair ended I know not. I looked out the coach window after them as long as the fading light would permit me to distinguish the struggle; and the last I saw of them they were both tugging away at the poor hat, till it must have become so misshapen as not to be worth an altercation.

I have often been amused with a description of Englishmen who come on the Continent with apparently scarcely any motive, often without speaking any but their native language, having no idea of foreign customs, and not sufficient natural tact to comprehend or adopt them; and thus they go on blundering, quarrelling, and grumbling to the end of their journey; and return to their own country without having experienced any pleasure, or having it in their power to give a description of any thing they have seen. The only advantage remaining to them, that they can *say* they have been to such and such a place; and *that*, with those sort of gentry, is, after all, the grand desideratum.

We had hardly finished laughing at the freaks of our whimsical Englishman, before the rattling on the stones proclaimed that we were at Stras-

burg; and as it was from France that I departed for my trip to the East, being once more in France, I considered myself at home, and shall obtrude my lucubrations no farther on my readers. But before I bid them farewell, I shall subjoin a few concluding remarks, wishing them to understand that the foregoing pages were begun many months since; but that the occurrence of several untoward circumstances prevented their completion until the present period. As they contain many prognostications which have been subsequently verified, it might appear that a tone of prophecy had been assumed, pretending to foretel events after they had happened, and had been sometime before the world, if my readers did not bear in mind that the early part of the work was written prior to the termination of the late year. On another account, also, it is hoped that this circumstance will be remembered, several publications having recently been produced, containing some remarks precisely the same as may be found in the earliest chapters of the first volume of this work; one in particular has just appeared, in which it is observed, that Greece eventually would probably supersede Italy as a fashionable resort

for wealthy travellers. On which subject I have much dilated, and which was written nearly a twelvemonth since. On the other hand, a *dissimilarity* of opinion to my own is equally remarkable in another respect, in the work alluded to, the author, having eulogised the Greek females, both for their grace and beauty. There is no accounting for the difference of taste, and, as the French say, *chaque à son goût;* but, certainly, the gentleman ought to be regarded by the Greek fair as their knight-errant, for having declared them peerless, when almost all recent travellers to Greece have expressed their astonishment and disappointment at finding such a dearth of beauty in modern Greece.

When I first arrived on her classic shores, it was with the predisposition to find beauty in every cottage, and wherever I went nought but *couleur de rose;* but having the opportunity at the court, and at the ministers' parties, of seeing the aristocracy of the country, and in my travels the peasantry, I certainly had the means of seeing what beauty the kingdom might afford, but was ever seeking in vain. I have not read, it is true, more than extracts of the work by the Greek ladies'

champion, but certainly shall take the first opportunity of so doing, in hopes that some of the fair syrens may be named, and personally indicated, as it would almost determine me to return instanter to Greece, to see such phenomena. I undoubtedly agree with the author that there is both natural and artificial grace, and that the former is far the more fascinating of the two; but, for my part, all that I could discover of nature in the Greek females, was natural awkwardness; and as regards the artificial, was the art they had in painting their faces, forming their eyebrows, &c. &c. I therefore must bow with due submission to the superior penetration and discernment of the defender of the fair.

There are other works which have been before the public concerning Turkey and Greece, long prior to my visiting those countries, which contain observations so nearly similar to many of my own, that, lest I might be accused of plagiarism, I think it right to state that, with the exception of "Anastatius," some of "Lord Byron's Letters," "Cavendish" and "Pencillings by the Way," I had not read any travels in the East of very modern date, until I had nearly completed my work, when I looked

over several books which alluded to the ground which I had traversed, in order to rehearse my memory regarding the names of persons and places to which I may have adverted, having had the misfortune to lose all my memoranda. In referring to different volumes for that purpose, I found some remarks the same, almost verbatim, as those which I had made; but having once written them, I would not take the trouble to erase or alter them, because the same ideas had struck other persons before me. The fact is, that contemplating the same objects, the same tone of feeling is engendered in minds which are similarly constituted; hence it must frequently occur, that the same mode of expression may arise in the description of the same subject, although given by different parties.

Whatever information I have obtained and offered to the public I have derived from persons, and not from books. Most frequently such communications as I have afforded have been the result of my own observations; and where I could not have personal experience, as that was not always possible, I have procured much detailed intelligence from individuals, on whose knowledge

and veracity I judged I could rely. Some circumstances I have stated, which certainly appear rather of the marvellous order, but such I have given, with all their doubts hanging over them, leaving my readers to believe, or reject them, as their own judgment may dictate.

Another instance of contrariety of opinion to my own, is evinced by an authoress, whose talents have elicited the highest encomiums, and are well known to the public, in the glowing description she has given of the Sultan: here again then, I must plead the error of my vision. It is possible that as he was seen by the lady in question, when he appeared under a blaze of diamonds sparkling from his head to his fingers, his countenance might at that moment imbibe a portion of their lustre, whilst, on the contrary, when I saw him he was clad as plainly as possible, and totally unadorned either by jewels or precious stones, no semblance of aught of the kind appearing, except, indeed, the end of his nose, which somewhat emulated the ruby's tint. But *I* had no gilded araba, or other vehicle to attract his royal eye; and as I stood, with my friend Mr. Churchill, amongst the swinish herd, his Majesty passed on, and heeded us not.

so that it was quite evident he was not *struck* with *me*; hence, perhaps, the reason that I could not see him with more admiring eyes.

But as it is universally admitted that females are the best judges of our sex, I certainly must, with deference, submit and subscribe to the opinion of a more competent judge, recommending my readers to do the same, ever bearing in mind, that "when a lady's in the case, all other things give place."

THE END.

GILBERT & RIVINGTON, Printers, St. John's Square, London.


00083375



Digitized with financial assistance from the
Government of Maharashtra
on 10 February, 2016